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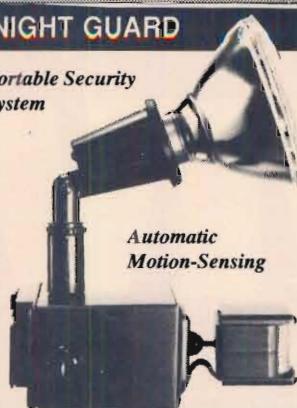
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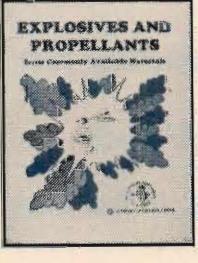
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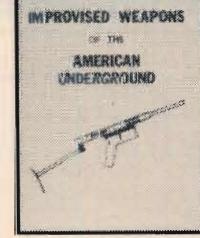
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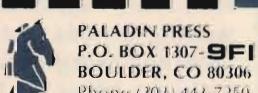
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## Assault weapon bans: your rights trampled . . .

**N**INETEEN eighty-nine will be remembered as the beginning of the end of the Constitution of the United States.

That's how one firearms owner here in California feels about the outrageous legislation in this state to ban sales and severely restrict current ownership (clearly with the intent of later confiscation) of semiautomatic military-style firearms, commonly known as assault weapons.

At this writing nothing has been signed into law but assault firearm owners — myself included — are very apprehensive about the prospects of two bills that have been passed by the California Legislature to prohibit sales and require those Californians already owning these guns to register them with the state.

The registration would require fingerprinting and background checks of the owners and forbids the sale or transfer of the weapons to anyone except a licensed gun dealer. Of course, down the road, the liberals controlling the Legislature will call for these guns to be turned in to authorities — which has already been done in Los Angeles and other cities in the state — and they'll have a convenient list of all the assault weapon owners.

I want to clarify my comments about registration which I made in this column in the April 1989 issue of *ASG*. Discussing the gun-ban legislation in that column I stated I am "not a fan of gun registration, but we already have it anyway, for the most part, and waiting periods (not excessively long ones) and background checks wouldn't make my life or the lives of other law-abiding citizens miserable, nor infringe too much on their rights."

I've drawn fire from readers who interpreted these comments as my advocating gun registration. I definitely did not intend to do that. I was referring to what for me is the "registration" we already have. That is, there is a serial number on each of your firearms which it is a crime to remove. And when you buy a gun from a dealer you have to fill out a form or forms

giving information about yourself and listing the serial number of the gun and you are the owner of record of that gun. This is the ONLY "registration" I was talking about and the ONLY "registration" I can accept. I am adamantly opposed to any further restrictions on firearms purchase and ownership, with the exception of background checks and waiting periods.

I had hoped that background checks and waiting periods could be substituted for the outright bans and severe restrictions on ownership the fanatics in the California Legislature want. But I see this was a mistake. These people mean to eventually take away every significant firearm in civilian hands, and with the mass murders of school children in Stockton committed by the psychotic Patrick Purdy with his AK-47 they have a vehicle with which to whip up public outrage and hysteria against guns. These fanatics are eagerly assisted by our Big Media which is dominated by other gun-hating liberals ("liberals" being the polite term for "leftists").

Prominent among the Big Media leftists are *CBS* and *The Los Angeles Times*, both of which have waged an unrelenting propaganda war against assault weapons and their owners, editorializing repeatedly against them and allowing virtually no pro-gun opinion to reach the public except for a few quotes in news stories on the issue.

If the California legislation is signed into law by Gov. George Deukmejian, it will be the most harsh and repressive gun-control law of any state in the country and an extremely dangerous precedent for other states to follow. It could, indeed, mean the beginning of the end of our Second Amendment rights to keep and bear arms.

Assault weapons, after all, are the arms of the day. If they are banned from the hands of the public, law-abiding citizens will have been effectively disarmed. Criminals, terrorists, foreign armies, and our law enforcement and military personnel will possess these weapons — but not you and me!

With the California legislation, the current federal ban on importation of assault weapons and even more fanatical legislation to ban and CONFISCATE semiautomatic firearms being considered in Congress, now is the time to act.

This column is a call to arms — politically, that is (the few misguided individuals who make threats of violence over the issue only play into the hands of the gun haters, giving them ample propaganda to use against us).

Now is the time to — as one reader put it — come out of the closet, if you have not been active in the pro-gun movement. Call and write your local, state and federal government representatives and let them know how you feel about these ridiculous and outrageous gun bans and registration restrictions. Call and write President George Bush about it. The telephone number for the White House is (202) 456-7639. Write to the President in care of the White House at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20500. If you haven't been doing anything up to this point, get off your butt! To paraphrase Ben Franklin's statement to the American revolutionary leaders: we had all better hang together on this one or we shall all surely hang separately!

Call and write your local newspapers and television and radio stations and let them know how you feel about banning your firearms. If you haven't joined the National Rifle Association, it's high time you did. This organization is fighting for our gun rights and needs all the support it can get. Call the NRA at (202) 828-6000 or write them at 1600 Rhode Island Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. Membership dues are \$20 per year and worth much, much more.

All this talk about our semiautomatic firearms having to be hunting weapons to be legitimate is a bunch of twaddle. Pleasure shooting at tin cans and bottles, target shooting, competitive match shooting, varmint control — these are also perfectly legitimate uses for these weapons. And of course these guns could be used for self defense and to defend one's home and country. And don't forget their purpose as a deterrent to government oppression and tyranny.

This fight to keep our Second Amendment rights is just beginning. We must organize and work effectively to turn the tide in our favor. We must never, never give up — Jim Benson.

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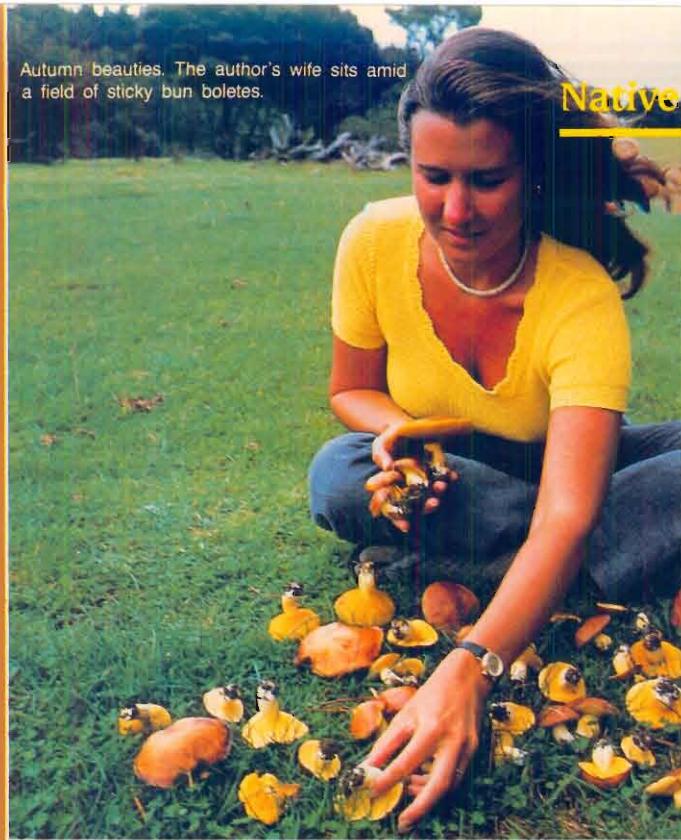
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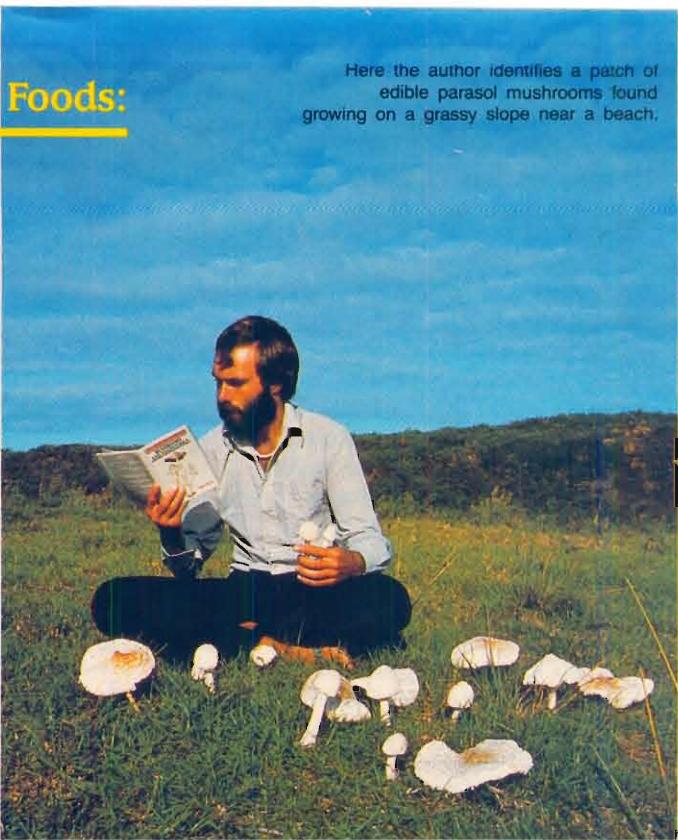
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Autumn beauties. The author's wife sits amid a field of sticky bun boletes.



## Native Foods:

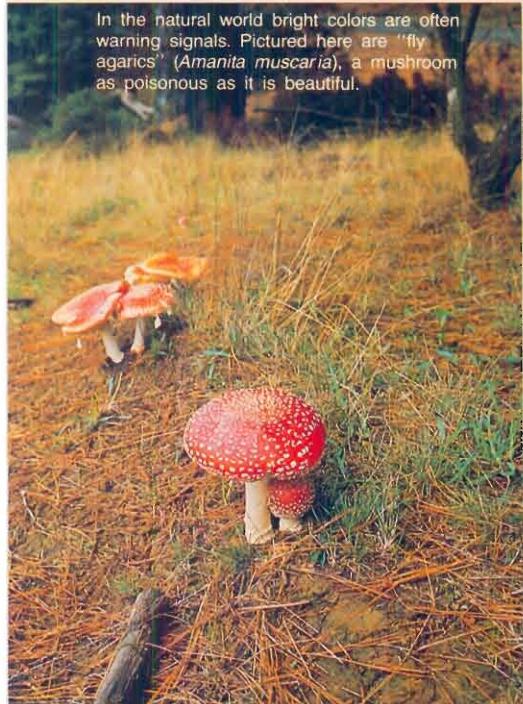
Here the author identifies a patch of edible parasol mushrooms found growing on a grassy slope near a beach.



# Wild Mushrooms: If You Dare

*Can you tell the difference between edible and poisonous varieties? . . .*

In the natural world bright colors are often warning signals. Pictured here are "fly agarics" (*Amanita muscaria*), a mushroom as poisonous as it is beautiful.



Young Marasmius mushrooms, at this early stage, could possibly be confused with Conocybes, whose edibility are unknown. When mature, there's little danger of mistaken identities.



Pink bottom meadow mushrooms (*Agaricus* species) are testimony to the abundant harvest of Autumn.



By Allen Deever

## FOR death-defiers there's Russian roulette and "mushroom roulette."

Both are played much the same, and both are equally dangerous.

To play mushroom roulette simply gather a mushroom that "looks" like an edible type, check it carefully to see if it will tarnish a silver spoon, or if there are teeth marks on it (animals always know what's edible), then prepare it in any of your favorite recipes. Bon appetit! Have an expensive bottle of wine to wash it all down with, and share this dinner with your favorite love. You might as well enjoy yourselves, it could be your last meal.

A few years back an Asian family — that had just recently moved to Oregon — unwittingly played mushroom roulette... and lost. What likely happened was that they mistook *Amanita virosa* (the famed "destroying angel") for the delicately flavored *Leucoagaricus naucinus*. To the untrained eye they're quite similar. They're both about the same size. Both have the same general shape and color, both have white gills, and both can be pan-fried to a beautiful cream-grey color (it's probable that both even taste good). The only major difference is that if you fry and eat the *Amanita*, kiss your mushroom hunting days goodbye.

In case you ever wondered what death by mushroom poisoning would be like, let me describe it here. After ingesting the poisonous mushroom, two toxins enter the system (complex polypeptide molecules made up mainly of amino acids—one quick acting and the other slow acting), and make their way towards the liver. There, enzymes in the liver combine with these molecules, to form a compound that attacks the cells of the liver. By the time the victim begins to feel intense pain, the faster-acting poison has already acted and it is generally too late to pump the stomach.

Following the pain comes excessive vomiting, lethargy, and blurred vision. Miraculously, the victim begins to feel better after only a few hours (when the fast-acting poison is expended), until the slow-acting enzyme comes into play, bringing with it severe pain lasting up to six days. The pain usually ends with death. Should the patient be so lucky as to survive, he can expect a month to recuperate, though his liver may never fully recover from the damage inflicted upon it.

So how does one tell an edible var-

iety of mushroom from a poisonous one? And, if the risks are so great, is it a safe hobby to pursue? I'm adamant that it is... if one knows what they're doing. There are a few general guidelines that can help one avoid the unpleasantness of mushroom poisoning, (though there's no sure test of edibility, but try to remember these four simple things: 1) Don't eat mushrooms with white gills; 2) Don't eat mushrooms that are too old; 3) Don't eat mushrooms raw; and 4) Don't drink alcohol while eating wild mushrooms. When it comes to determining which mushroom is safe, however, there's only one rule that applies: *Make Damn Certain That You Have Positively Identified The Species In Question, Beyond Any Shadow Of Doubt*. Otherwise cock the hammer, spin the chamber, take careful aim and pull the trigger. It's a much faster way to go.

This article isn't a definitive course on identifying wild edible mushrooms of North America. It is merely a step in the right direction to get the beginning mycologist started. Mushroom hunting (and eating) is both safe and rewarding, if you know what you're doing, and there's really no excuse for mistakes. God made every species of mushroom to an exact blueprint that to the trained eye is as recognizable as the face and body of one human being from another.

There's the size of the cap to consider, the length and diameter of the stem, and the color of the cap and stem. Furthermore the careful mushroom hunter will always ask: What color are the gills? How far are the gills spaced apart? Are they free or attached to the stalk? Is the cap and stalk smooth or do they have shingles, hairs or warts? Are they dry or are they slimy? Does a ring surround the stalk? Is there a volva (cup-like tissue around the base of the stem)? Is the cap margin smooth or indented? Is it convex or concave? Does the flesh of the mushroom change color when bruised? How does the mushroom smell? What is it growing on? Etc., etc.

**Spore Print** — More experienced mushroom hunters will also take a spore print. It's a simple process that requires merely finding two young but fully developed mushrooms, and slicing off the caps. Set one cap (gill side down) on a piece of white paper and another on a piece of black paper, then leave them undisturbed for eight hours. The spores, which are the mushroom's reason for being, all have their own

distinctive color which indicates species. For those species that have the same color spores, further identification can be made by applying a solution known as "Melzer's reagent" to the spore print, and watching the reaction. If the spores turn blue it is called an "amyloid reaction." A reputable mushroom guidebook will outline these details.

Mushrooms can occur any time of year that conditions are right, though generally speaking, they're seasonal. Spring is the undisputed season for foraging (a season that carries on through the Summer rains), though Autumn also brings much more than just gold to the trees. Autumn is a time of year when thoughtful nature makes her bounties most prolific, enabling woodland creatures to ready for the hardships of the coming winter.

Autumn is a time of plenty, the last floral extravaganza of the year, and as those rainbow-tinted leaves flutter to the ground providing compost, an abundant mushroom harvest stirs beneath. So don't let those guidebooks collect dust six months out of the year!

**Toadstool** — Before going any further, I'd like to dispel a common myth concerning those mushrooms known as "toadstools." When is a mushroom a toadstool, really? To the vast majority of those people I collectively refer to as "the uninformed," a toadstool is a mushroom they can't identify; or to put it another way, a mushroom is a toadstool when someone is afraid to eat it. Webster's unabridged dictionary defines a toadstool as "... any fungus having an umbrella-like disk, or pileus, borne on a stalk, especially fungi of the genus *Agaricus* and related species." I might mention that the common mushroom we find in the supermarket is in the *Agaricus* genus. What makes the commonly accepted meaning that a "toadstool is poisonous" more ludicrous is that the poisonous hallucinogenic *Psilocybin* fungi is always referred to as "magic mushrooms."

When I was a kid, a toadstool was a thing that popped up in the lawn overnight, and turned into an inky, slimy mass of black sludge a day or two later... and I thought for sure I'd be poisoned by just touching it! I now call that same toadstool a "shaggy mane" mushroom (*Coprinus comatus*), and recognize it as one of the most delicately flavored mushrooms of all, in its early stages.

This feared "toadstool" of my boy-

(Continued on page 66)

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*KGB computer spy ring cracked, 1988 earthquake toll triple the average, child death study shows auto accidents a top killer, anti-gunners countered...*

**I**n what is acknowledged to be the first case of its kind, U.S. and West German authorities have broken up a major computer spy ring being run by the KGB. The ring used "computer-hackers" in West Germany to break into U.S. military computers around the world in order to steal classified data, passwords, and software. The KGB reportedly paid the hackers for their services with cash and drugs.

According to the FBI at least 30 computer systems belonging to the military and defense contractors were broken into over the past two years. Once they had gained access to a system the hackers would systematically search its data base for information related to nuclear weapons, intelligence satellites, the Strategic Defense Initiative, the space shuttle, and the North American Air Defense Command. Among the systems reportedly broken into by the hackers was a Defense Department database known as "Optimus," a NASA computer at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, and two systems used by the Department of Energy for nuclear weapons and energy research at Los Alamos, New Mexico, and the Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois.

**1988 Earthquake Tolls** — In a strange statistical quirk, 1988 saw fewer "significant" earthquakes than the year before, but at the same time saw an almost tripling of the worldwide yearly average of earthquake fatalities. Experts blame the massive earthquake in Soviet Armenia for the abnormally high number of earthquake fatalities in 1988.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, USGS, the average annual earthquake death toll is about 10,000. According to Soviet estimates (which some experts dismiss as way too low) some 25,000 people died in the Armenian quake. Other earthquakes in 1988 accounted for an additional 2,000-2,500 deaths. The year's toll was the highest since 1976 when an earthquake in China killed an estimated 250,000 people.

All told, the USGS recorded some 61 "significant" earthquakes in 1988, 15 fewer than 1987. The USGS rates an earthquake as "significant" if it has a magnitude of 6.5 or higher on the Richter scale.

**Child Safety Study** — Researchers at the Boston based Johns Hopkins School of Public Health have released the results of the first comprehensive state by state study of injury-related childhood deaths in the U.S. Injury is the leading cause of childhood death in this country, claiming some 10,000 lives each year. Among the findings, motor vehicle accidents accounted for some 37 percent of deaths. Alaska has the highest injury-related death rate for children — 35 per 100,000, while Massachusetts has the lowest — 11.2 per 100,000. Fires in the home and drowning accidents were the top child killers in some 21 states.

Anna Walker, one of the project's researchers, said basic safety precautions could substantially lower the number of children killed by injuries each year. "If we took all of the prevention strategies we know, like installing smoke detectors, putting fences around swimming pools, and wearing seat belts, we could lower the death rates by 29 percent."

**Free Enterprise** — While the liberal media and the anti-gun crowd continue their hysteria about the evils of "assault rifles," it is heartening to hear of at least one individual who was able to turn the tide on the anti-gun nuts.

Robin Heid, a private investigator and freelance writer heard about an offer made by a Roman Catholic priest, Rev. Marshall Gourley of Denver, to give \$100 to anyone surrendering a firearm. Mr. Heid surrendered a five year old, somewhat poorly made handgun (worth about \$40), and collected his \$100, which he is now planning to use as a down payment on an AR-15 "assault rifle." Said Heid, "When you have a chance to make a good deal, you make it." •

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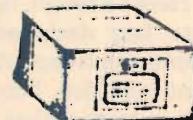
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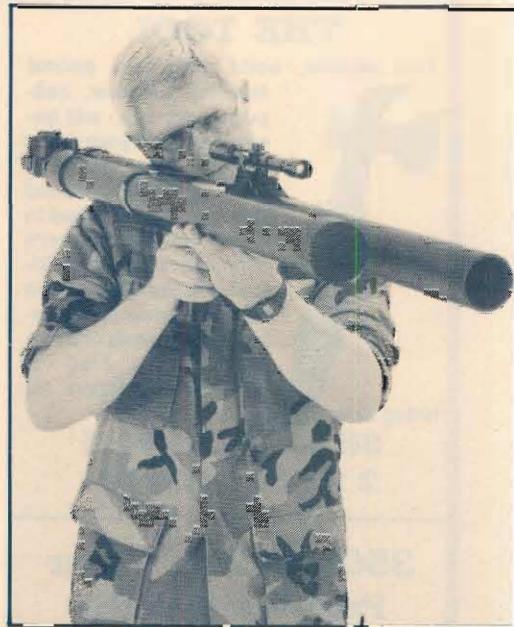
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F.I.E. Corp. introduces the Standard Revolver, available in .38 Special, .32 S&W and .32 S&W Long and .32 H&R Magnum. Comes with either a 2-inch or 4-inch barrel with deep blue finish. Made in the U.S.A. Lightweight, perfectly balanced, simple, reliable. Smooth, fast double action or reliable single action, machined steel cylinder and barrel. Floating firing pin. Non-snag front sight. Only 23 ounces with 2-inch barrel or 26 ounces with 4-inch barrel. Magnum style round butt. Non-glare front ramp sight, low profile square notch rear sight. Checkered hammer and serrated trigger. One-piece solid frame with smooth coil spring action and exclusive mono-unit action assembly. Suggested retail is \$129.95. Ask your firearms dealer about it, or contact F.I.E. Corp., Dept. ASG, P.O. Box 4866, Hialeah, FL

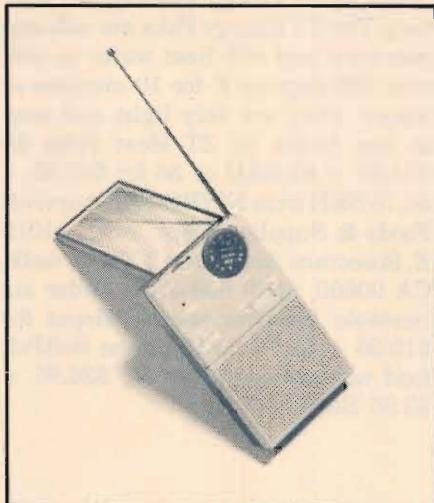


33014; (305) 685-5966. Send \$2 for their new 1989 catalog featuring the new SPAS-15 shotgun, SPECTRE Pistol and Carbine and many other fine firearms.

#### **Solar Powered Radio**

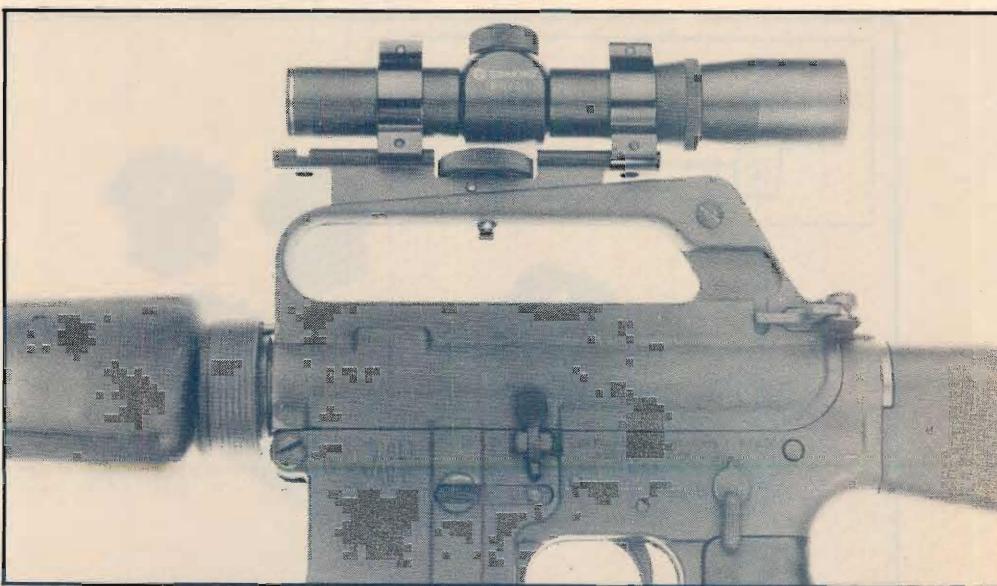
Just set this radio out in direct sunlight and let it run off the sun's energy. It has both AM and FM reception. As long as you have sunlight you can operate this lightweight little radio. It's not water resistant and does not have built-in NiCad batteries to operate it without sunlight but you can install

backup AAA batteries for this purpose in a compartment built into the radio. It comes with extendable antenna, built-in solar panel and stereo headphones. Cost is regularly \$42.95. Available for \$27.95 +\$2.75 S&H from NITRO-PAK Survival Foods & Supplies, Dept. ASG, 11018 E. Rosecrans Ave., Suite 300, Norwalk, CA 90650; (213) 929-4705.



#### **AR-15/M16 Scope Mount**

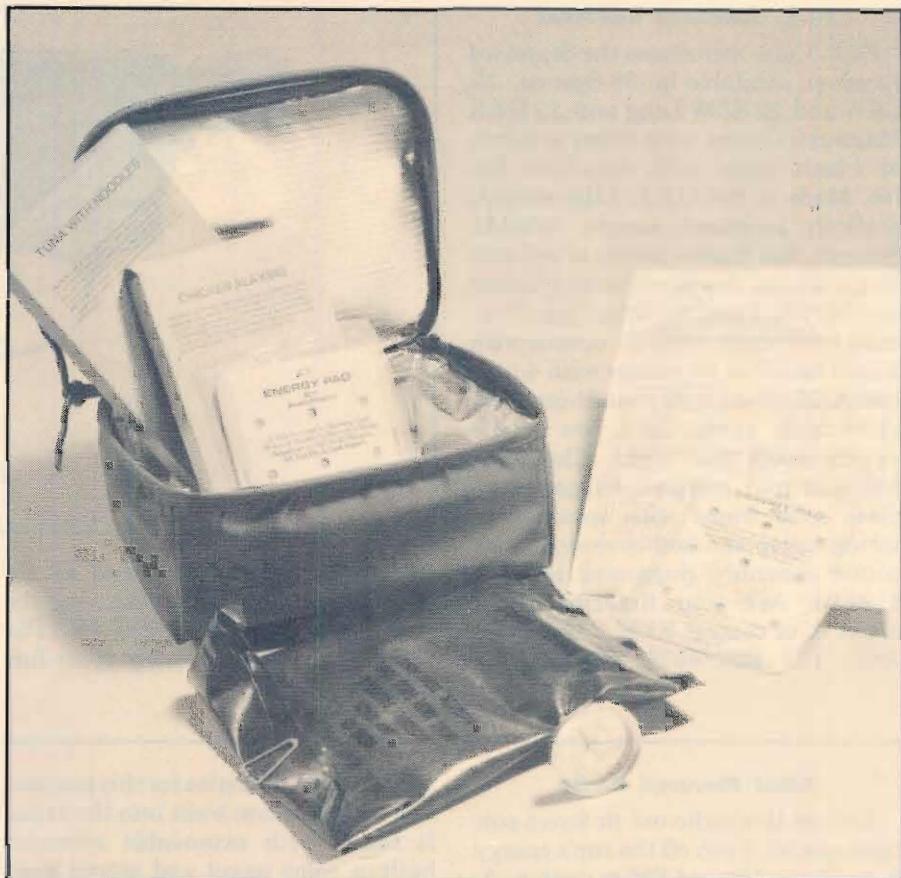
B-Square has added a brand new AR-15/M16 military scope mount to their professional series of no-gunsmithing mounts. This new mount is instant on and off with only one hand. There are no knobs, screws or extra parts. The mount has both NATO Stanch and standard dovetail provisions so military optics or standard scopes, rings and devices can be used. It has a military finish to match the gun. All B-Square mounts are made in the U.S.A. by American workers using American parts and machinery. Suggested price is \$99.50 for this new mount, available at dealers everywhere or directly from B-Square, Dept. ASG, P.O. Box 11281, Ft. Worth, TX 76110; (817) 923-0964.



# NEW PRODUCTS

## Heat Paks, Food Warmers

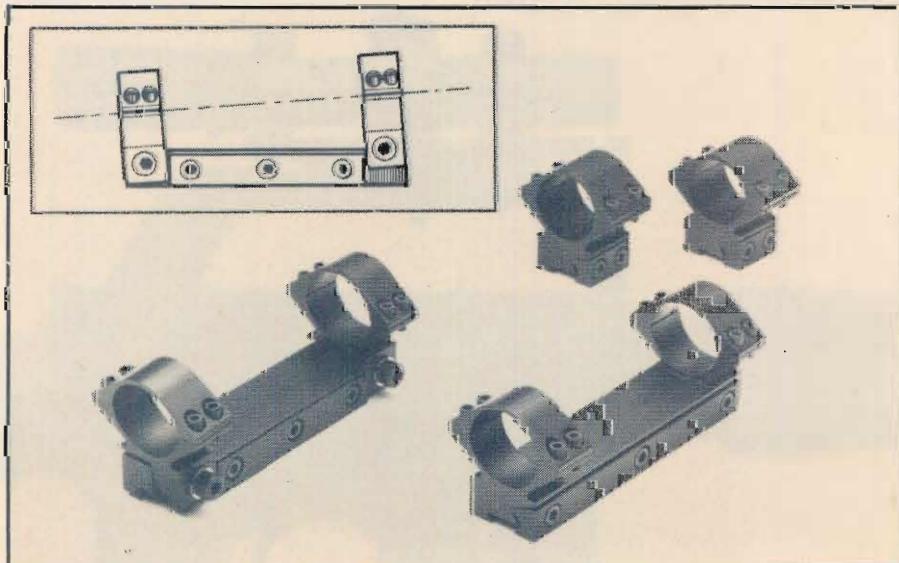
Heated military MRE (meal ready to eat) food pouches taste much better than when they are eaten cold. This is also true of other types of meal-in-a-pouch foods, and a hot meal, especially in cold weather, can greatly improve morale. ZestoTherm Energy Paks used with a quarter-cup of water in a ZestoTherm FoodWarmer Envelope or SoftPak make it possible to have a hot meal virtually anywhere, anytime. If you don't have a food warmer container with you, empty the contents of the MRE envelope and use it to warm your food pouch with the Energy Pak and a little water. The large MRE envelopes are designed for that purpose and are used with the ZestoTherm Energy Paks by the military. The ZT Energy Paks are safe and non-toxic and will heat water to well over 200 degrees F. for 10 minutes or longer. They are very light and easy to use. Order 12 ZT Heat Paks for \$14.50 + \$3 S&H or 36 for \$36.95 + \$4.75 S&H from NITRO-PAK Survival Foods & Supplies, Dept. ASG, 11018 E. Rosecrans Ave., Suite 300, Norwalk, CA 90650; (213) 929-4705. Order six reusable FoodWarmer Envelopes for \$10.95 + \$2.75 S&H, or the SoftPak food warmer container for \$26.95 + \$3.95 S&H.



## Marksman's New Airgun Scope Mount

Marksman introduces a new series of quality scope mounts for airguns designed to fit any gun with standard dovetail grooves. The one- and two-

piece mounts (Models 6005 and 6006 respectively) are joined by Marksman's newest scope mount -- the Model 6007 with a unique compensating feature. Engineered to solve a common scope mounting problem in airguns, the Model 6007 offers vertical adjustment. The unique tilting ability of both the front and rear scope rings allows adjustment to shoot up to 10 inches above or below the center line of your target at 10 meters, depending on your rifle. Total range of adjustment is a full three degrees, allowing optimum use of your scope settings for precise shooting. The compensating scope mount, like all Marksman scope mounts, has recoil-proof positive stop screw. All three mounts feature a 1-inch diameter and offer easy mounting and quick adjustment. For details on these and other Marksman products, write to Marksman Products, Dept. ASG, 5622 Engineer Drive, Huntington Beach, CA 92649, or call toll free 1-800-822-8005. Catalogs available on request.





### Ek Bowie Knives

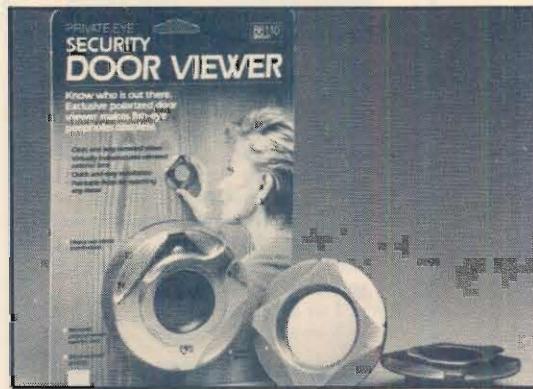
The new Ek Bowie heralds a whole new direction for Ek Commando Knife Company. Years in the making, these knives are all-purpose combat/utility blades. Available with customer's choice of handle and sheath, prices range

### 3 Day Food Supply

SI's 72-hour emergency food supply stores for long periods, requires no water and is light and good tasting. Packed in a sealed cardboard box measuring 11 by 5½ by 7½ inches is an assortment of military retort pouches (MREs) of fresh 1986 and 1987 issued foods supplying 2,100 calories per day. Needing no refrigeration, it will store for 7 to 10 years. The supply includes nine meat entree retorts, three beans with tomato sauce, three applesauce, three cakes and six delicious LRP freeze dried fruit bars. The meat entrees are drawn from a variety of selections including chicken ala king, ham slices, beef stew, beef with BBQ sauce and more. This pack is \$11.50 + \$3 S&H or four packs for \$48 postpaid from SI Equipment, Ltd., Dept. ASG, 15600 S. Figueroa Street, Gardena, CA 90248; (213) 324-8855 or 8859; outside California call toll free (800) 533-7415.



from \$128 for a Paragrip to \$178 for black Micarta. Overall length is 13 inches. Blade length is 6¾ inches and the blade has a Rockwell hardness of C57-59. Blade has thicker steel for added strength and its high carbon stainless steel is heat treated to 1,950 degrees F. then plunged to 120 degrees F. below freezing to retain a razor edge, which is polished to shaving sharp. Be it a military maneuver in distant lands, a SWAT operation in the streets or a hunting trip in the wilds, your knife is custom built to fit your needs. See you knife dealer or contact Ek Commando Knife Company, Dept. ASG, 601 N. Lombardy St., Richmond, VA 23220; (804) 257-7272; toll free orders: 1-800-468-5575.



### Security Door Viewer

The Private Eye is a unique new door viewer that provides a large one-way viewing area clear enough to read an I.D. card yet it features a mirrored lens so no one can see in or even see a spot of light coming from inside. The Private Eye can be installed in any size door, is built of heavy cast metal construction with weather-proof plating and features a shatter-proof mirrored exterior lens and polarized inner lenses that can be turned to shut out all light when not in use. Private Eye is available in either bright or antique brass finish, comes with a lifetime manufacturer warranty and includes a 30-day money-back guarantee. It sells for \$21.95 postpaid from PacificCrest Specialty Products, Dept. ASG, 4665 SW. 191st Ave., P.O. Box 7371, Aloha, OR 97007-7371. •

## SMOKES



### MILITARY SMOKE GRENADES (M-18)

Brand new G.I. — straight from the factory. This grenade is used to produce dense clouds of smoke for signalling and screening movement of small units. The smoke from these military grenades is designed to cling to the ground rather than rise into the air. Burn time: 50-90 seconds; Fuse delay: 1-2 seconds after handle is released. Weight 19 oz. Available in white, red or yellow.

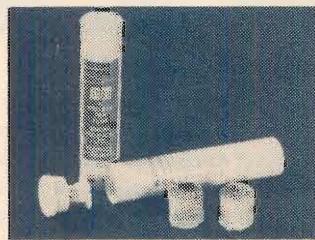
Price: 1 or 2 grenades ..... \$34.95 ea.  
3 or more ..... \$32.50 ea.



### RIOT BUSTER SMOKE GRENADE

Light this unit and produce an incredible 100,000 cubic feet of HC white smoke. Can be used for emergency services, disaster and evacuation training exercises, war games, large smoke screens or riot control. Burn time: 2½-3 minutes; Fuse delay 5-10 seconds. Cannister is 4" tall and 2" in diameter.

Price: 1 or 2 cannisters ..... \$7.95 ea.  
3 or more cannisters .. \$6.95 ea.



### SMOKE PELLETS

When lit with a match or lighter, these smoke pellets generate a large amount of dense, white smoke. Each pellet contains an ignition surface, making it easy to light in wind. Burns without flame but is very hot. These smoke pellets have a multitude of uses. Packed 4 pellets to a tube. Price: tube of 4 ..... \$3.75 tb

Shipping and Handling: add \$3.00 per order.  
Catalog \$2.00; FREE with order.

**Phoenix Systems, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 3339A  
Evergreen, CO 80439  
Phone: (303) 674-2653

## BOOKS/VIDEOS

**UDT Explosives Techniques**, copyright 1988 by Paladin Press, P.O. Box 1307, Dept. ASG, Boulder, CO 80306; (303) 443-7250; 28 pages, softcover, \$8 plus \$3 shipping.

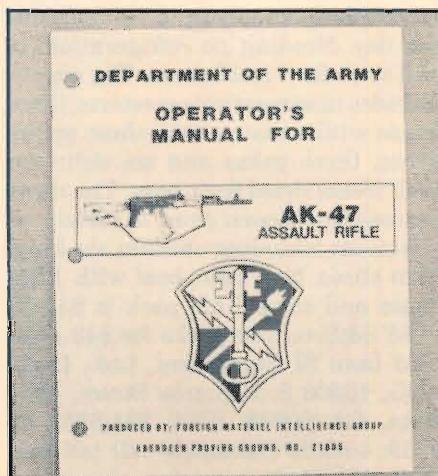
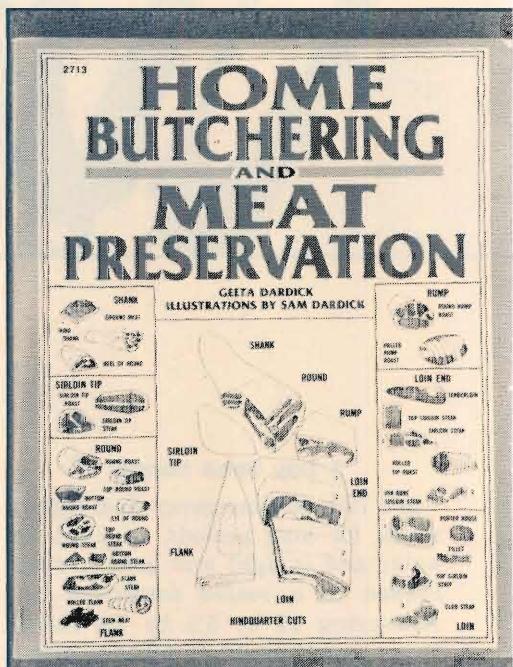
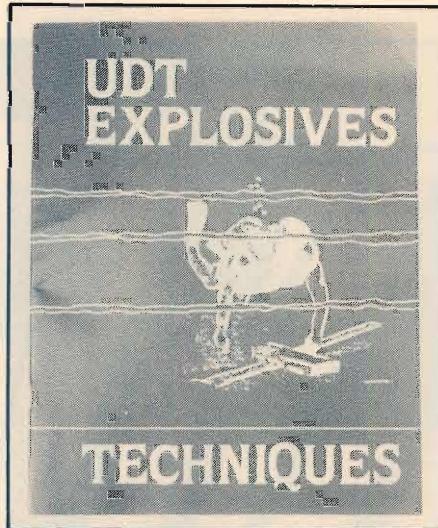
A reprinted government manual of underwater demolition, *UDT Explosives Techniques* gives detailed information on various types of explosives, explosive materials and packages. Charge estimation and placement, coral blasting, cold weather demolition, improvised demolitions and advanced demolitions are covered. •

**Home Butchering and Meat Preservation**, by Geeta Dardick; Tab Books, Inc., Dept. ASG, Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214; (717) 794-2191; 288 pages, 166 illustrations; \$12.60 paperback or \$24.95 hardbound.

A complete guide to home butchering and meat preservation for anyone desiring more economical and delicious meat. It explains in step by step detail the ins and outs, the pleasures and the pitfalls of selecting, raising, caring for, breeding, slaughtering, butchering, preserving and cooking poultry, rabbits, goats, sheep, venison, pigs, veal and beef. All the information needed to carry on the age-old tradition of raising and butchering animals for personal consumption or even as a side business. Clearly illustrated with photos and line drawings.

**Operator's Manual for AK-47 Assault Rifle**, Department of the Army, Sierra Supply, P.O. Box 1390, Durango, CO 81302; (303) 259-1822; 42 pages, softcover; \$7.95 postpaid in the Continental U.S., \$8.95 postpaid in Canada, Alaska, and Hawaii.

AK-47, the name strikes terror in politicians, police, combat veterans, and rival drug gangs. The U.S. Military has compiled a field manual on the AK-47 due to wide spread use and availability. Sierra Supply has acquired a small supply of these manuals that show assembly, disassembly, and a chart showing the various Soviet Bloc Armory stamps on the respective receivers. A great manual for the casual shooter, collector, etc.



**Robot Warriors, The Mechanics of Boobytrapping**, by Lyle Whitney; J. Flores Publications, P.O. Box 163001, Dept. ASG, Miami, FL 33116; (305) 559-4652; 208 pages, softcover; \$16.97 plus \$3 handling.

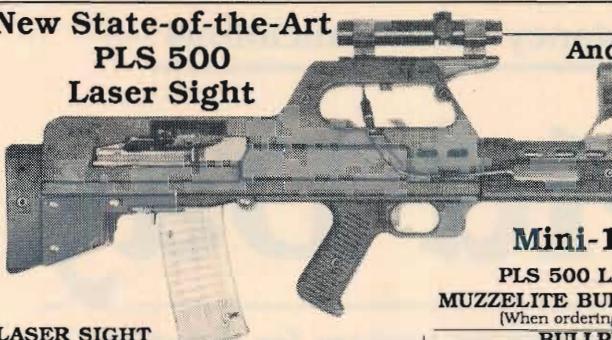
"A booby trap is a warrior that jumps suddenly out of nowhere and attacks viciously. Like a religious fanatic, it is suicidal: It will end its existence in one violent act. It is fearless and invulnerable, and so, virtually unstoppable..." *Robot Warriors* is one of the most comprehensive books on trapping and triggering devices that we have seen. With over 85 photographs and illustrations, the detailed how-to information is easy to grasp. Some of the chapters include ideas on: hitting a target, payloads, rigging, concealment, triggering, deadfall forms, tools and construction techniques, safety and more. Remember that many of these traps can incur lethal results, others can maim and cripple. This book is for informational purposes only. Igniters, fuel dumpers, nooses, stabbers, pipe guns, electrical switches, and noise makers are described.

## LYLE WHITNEY ROBOT WARRIORS

THE MECHANICS OF BOOBYTRAPPING

(Continued on page 68)

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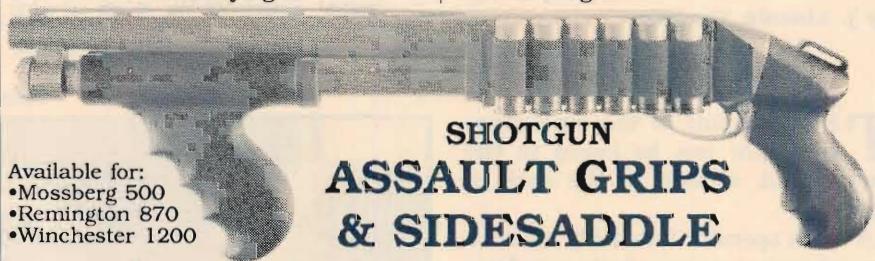
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## Emergency Communications:

# Field Day

*Amateur Radio operators prepare for disasters . . .*

By J. Lincoln Thorner

**T**HE putt-putt of the emergency generator can be heard in the background, unseen in the dark of night.

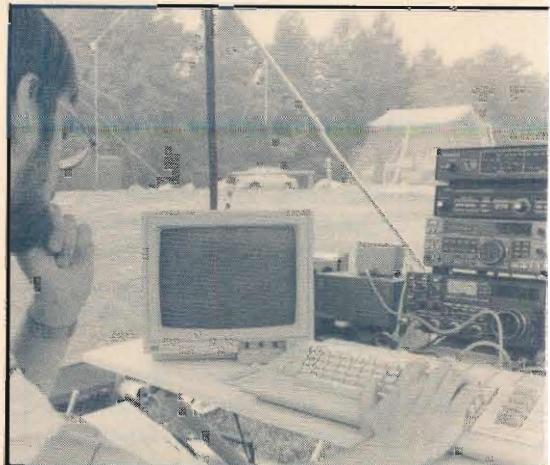
A radio operator feverishly copies a special message, translating it from Morse. The message completed, he quickly acknowledges receipt on his own telegraph key, tears the message off the pad of blanks and hands it to the operator next to him. She nods and turns quickly back to her computer terminal and relays the message via satellite to a station a thousand miles away.

Rain beats softly on the tarp strung up over their operating position in the middle of a forest. Hour after hour the team of operators works quietly, contacting station after station.

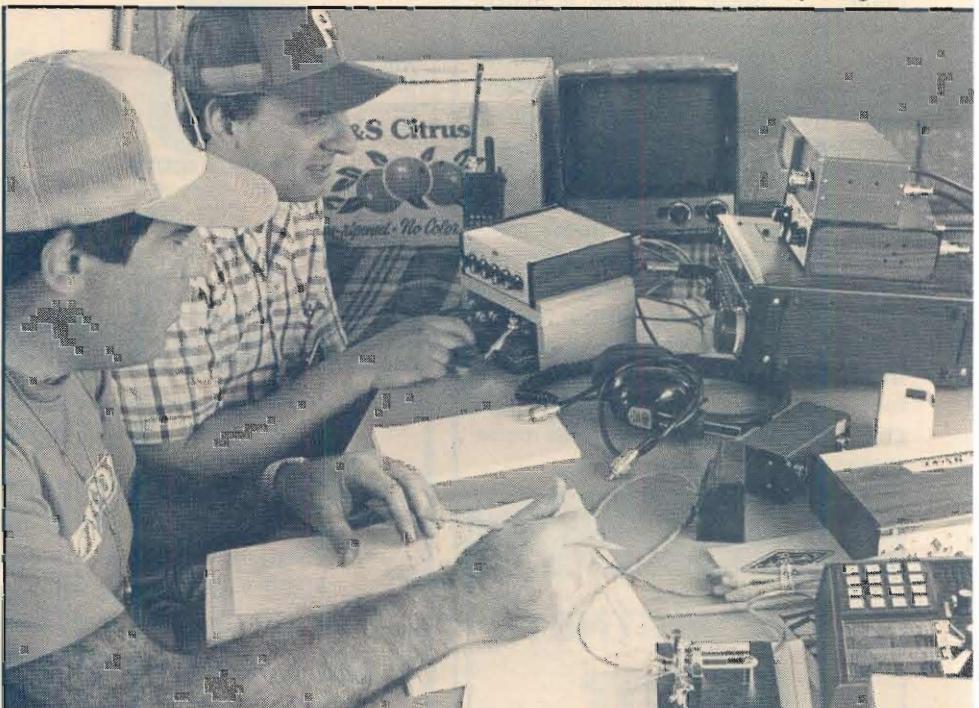
War? Earthquake or flood? Could be... that is what emergency operating is like. What these Amateur Radio operators are doing, however, is participating in Field Day, the biggest Ham contest there is. Each year, on the fourth full weekend in June, thousands of Radio Amateurs take to the fields and forests of the United States and Canada to set up emergency radio stations and sharpen their operating skills in simulated emergency conditions.

Field Day is open to all Radio Amateurs in the United States and Canada. Since the first Field Day in 1933, Hams have tested and sharpened their ability to operate independently of commercial power and fixed facilities. One might think that the uncountable instances where Hams have operated in aid of disaster relief would prove their capability, but as any survivalist individual knows, if you don't practice and test your abilities you may lose your skills, or leave some flaw in your preparations unfound until it costs someone their life.

Basic CW (Morse) and phone work side by side with advanced technology computer mailbox/relay "packet" systems like this. All are set up to operate in the wilds, independent of commercial power and communications systems.



Photos Courtesy of American Radio Relay League



A log keeper teams up with a radio operator for high speed operations during the annual Ham Field Day disaster communications exercise.

This kind of directly applicable survival training has been going on in the Amateur community for over half a century... it predates Civil Defense, fallout shelters and the modern survivalist movement by many decades. It also provides a priceless opportunity for individuals and groups to establish ties to the emergency communicators in their communities and to gain practical experience in survival communications.

"But I'm not a Ham!" you may say. Well, that's easily curable and the beginner's license carries all kinds of great new privileges, but until then, you should know that even unlicensed people can participate in Field Day. Short of actually controlling the operation of one of the transmitters, there is nothing that an unlicensed par-

ticipant cannot do.

It occurs to me that Field Day would provide a golden opportunity for a survivalist group to team up with an Amateur group, the survivalists providing field facilities and logistical support, the Hams doing the communicating. Most Ham clubs and groups organized primarily for Field Day have already spent a great deal of time and energy with their preparations and it would probably be more polite (and, frankly, more valuable to you) to approach your local Field Day group asking to learn and offering to help with what they need you for. How's your Coleman stove cooking anyway?

Actually, I've never seen a Field Day operation that couldn't use plenty of help setting up their antennas, shel-

ters, generators and whatnot. You can learn a lot about antennas by helping an expert put one together. Ditto generators, and transceivers. One of the really important operation-related activities that helpers do is to keep the log for the guy or gal on the microphone or telegraph key. You'll need to watch and ask some questions, at first, but once you catch the rhythm you can learn more about high pressure emergency communications by keeping the log than just about anything short of operating yourself.

Legally, even an unlicensed person can speak over a station microphone, or use the key or keyboard, as long as the operation is supervised by a licensed Ham. Realistically, don't expect to do this until you really know what you're doing and have the confidence of the station control operator. He is legally responsible for anything that the station transmits (he is even obligated to safeguard the station equipment) and most need a lot of convincing to allow this.

But once you think you could do a little operating, it wouldn't hurt to ask. I recommend that you go out and get your own license before taking a shot at Field Day operating itself... but, there is plenty to do for non-operators. By the way, once you get your Novice ticket (the beginner's license), the Field Day group gets a special advantage for using Novice and Technician class operators. So, you will be quite welcome in most groups, even with little experience and a lower class of Ham license.

**Rules** — There are five basic categories of Field Day station. While Field Day rules sometimes vary slightly from year to year, you can expect the rules I'm outlining (they are from the June 1988 Field Day) to be pretty much what you'll deal with this year. Don't worry about it, they are the responsibility of the station licensee, control operators and Field Day group leaders.

Class A Field Day stations are usually run by the bigger groups. They have three or more operators (not counting one Novice/Technician class operator position, which doesn't count against them in competition) and must operate away from any prepared site and cannot use commercial power.

Class B stations are one or two operator set-ups. They are less publicized than the big club Class As, but can be a lot of fun. The rules are the same as for Class As.

There are sub-categories called Class



Bonus contest points are earned by using "natural power" sources, such as solar, water or muscle power.

# Field Day

A Battery and Class B Battery. These are special low power set-ups (5 watts, or less, radio power output) that must be run on other than motor driven generators. This includes batteries charged by solar power and wind, water or muscle driven generators. This sort of operation should be of particular interest to survivalists and outdoorsmen who plan on carrying communications capability into remote areas or when vehicle transport is either unavailable or undesirable.

My experience with this class of Field Day station is that it is potentially the most useful practice and one heck of a lot of fun. Although 5 watts doesn't seem like a lot of power (and it's not), with a decent antenna and an experienced operator at the mike or key it can be enough for global communications. I have worked stations in Siberia, South America and all over Europe on one or two watts from a battery powered transceiver. No kidding! I must admit that even I was amazed.

Class C is another category of particular interest. It is for stations that are mobile, or capable of being operated from a vehicle in motion. This includes aeronautical (aircraft) and maritime (ship) mobile as well as land (car or truck) mobile stations. For the contest, the mobile station can be parked, but must be capable of mobile operation. I have seen teletype, CW (Morse) and even Amateur Radio satellite ground stations, as well as FM and Single Sideband voice used in mobile stations. The satellite guy actually had to park in order to acquire the satellite; Hams do not, as yet, have geosynchronous satellites and constant antenna tracking is a must. This makes two-way satellite relays very difficult for stations in a moving car. You would be surprised what can be accomplished in a moving car, however. I have the rare distinction of having worked Hams in each of the six inhabited continents... while driving... in Morse CW! It takes a little practice and I don't recommend it in heavy traffic, but there is just nothing like the thrill of chatting with a Ham on the other side of the world, in Morse, while driving to work. My most interesting contact was working an operator on a freighter in the Red Sea while bumping along on a gravel road in North



Even non-Hams are always welcome when it's time for antenna raising.

Dakota. Land mobile to maritime mobile CW contacts are pretty rare.

Class D contest stations are for ops who wish to participate in Field Day, but use their normal station location and commercial power.

Class E stations also operate from home, but use emergency power. I did this one year because I had an emergency generator in the basement. It powered the whole house and was acquired because both my furnace controls and boiler pumps, as well as my home's sump pump were electrically operated. I didn't want to be frozen or flooded out in case the power failed. In rural North Dakota, emergency preparedness was not an abstract concept.

Scores are computed by counting the number of stations with which you have two-way contact, with certain multipliers and bonuses. CW contacts count as two points, voice, as one. If all your contacts were done on low power (5 watts, or less), you multiply your score by 5; if all your contacts are made with moderate power (150 watts, or less), multiply by 2. If any contacts are made using higher power, there is no multiplier.

Bonus points are given for things like origination or relaying formal messages (radiograms), making contacts via communications satellite and making at least 5 contacts with equipment powered by "natural" sources such as solar, wind or even methane and grain alcohol fueled generators.

Stations in contact must exchange a minimum of their call letters, the number of transmitters and class of their operation and their ARRL geographical section. The American Radio Relay League is the national Ham organization and sponsors Field Day. An example that the League gives in their rules is, "... to operate three transmitters Class A category from

Missouri, you would send, '3A Missouri.'" Stations outside of the U.S. and Canada need only give their location and a standard "RST" signal report to be counted as a valid contest contact.

This year, the contest begins on Saturday, 24 June at 1800 UTC (Universal Coordinated Time, what used to be called Greenwich Mean Time). This means 1400 Eastern Daylight Time, 1300 Central Daylight Time, noon Mountain Daylight Time and 1100 Pacific Daylight Time. The contest period ends the next day, Sunday, 25 June at 2100 UTC (1700 EDT, 1600 CDT, 1500 MDT, and 1400 PDT).

There is a special premium for Class A and B stations that do no pre-contest setting up. This is to encourage skills in putting emergency stations on the air as quickly as possible. If they do not begin their set-up until the actual start of the contest at 1800 UTC on Saturday, they get to operate the entire 27 hour contest period. Otherwise, they can start setting-up anytime after 1800 on Friday, but can operate for no more than 24 consecutive hours, once they get on the air.

You may find Ham club members working as technicians at radio and television stations, or at your local telephone central switching office. A better idea is to contact the ARRL. Amateur Radio Clubs are almost universally affiliated with the League, and they make it their business to keep a directory of clubs and volunteer instructors, keyed to locations around the nation.

Tell them where you are and they'll tell you where the nearest club is. If the club isn't running a Field Day exercise, they will let you know who, in your area, is. The League's address is: ARRL, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111. A stamped self-addressed envelope would be helpful. ●

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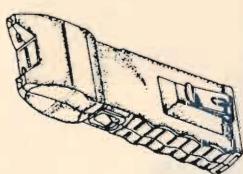
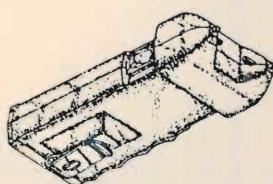
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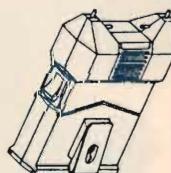


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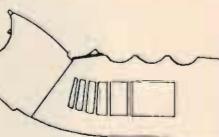
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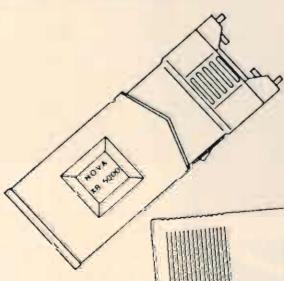
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Staff Report

**T**HE new Scorpion stun gun from Personal Electronic Protection Services is billed as the only dual purpose stun gun made.

Reports in the magazines *Outdoor Life*, *Backpacker* and medical journals have indicated there may be beneficial effects of applying electric shocks to victims of snakebite immediately after the bite occurs. While doctors and scientists are investigating these claims, this treatment is not officially approved by anyone.

Yet the reports continue to be made of alleviated pain and swelling of the bite area and minimal or no tissue damage to the bite area if electric shocks are applied immediately after the bite.

The Scorpion is intended to be used as a personal protection device, giving shocks of 50,000 volts, or 25,000 volts for use on dogs bitten by snakes. Approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for use on humans is likely to be years away and only then if such treatment is scientifically proven effective.

But meantime, the Scorpion could be applied to canine snakebite victims as first aid. Whether or not this device is used, the animal should always be taken to a veterinarian for standard snakebite treatment as soon as possible. This magazine and the maker do not recommend using the Scorpion on human snakebite victims. Always seek professional medical care for the victim as quickly as possible. See "Poisonous Snakes of the United States" in April 1989 ASG, for snakebite first aid instructions.

Order the Scorpion for \$64.95 plus \$4.25 S&H (CA residents add 6% sales tax) from Personal Electronic Protection Services, Dept. ASG, P.O. Box 1044 E. Paradise, CA 95967. (916) 877-2337. There is a 14-day money back guarantee of satisfaction. Buyer accepts all responsibility in complying with local, state and federal laws. Ask for brochure of other PEPS products. •



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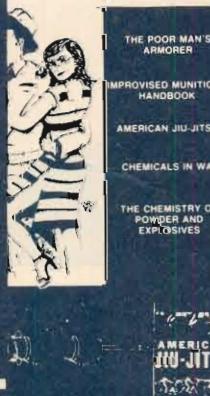
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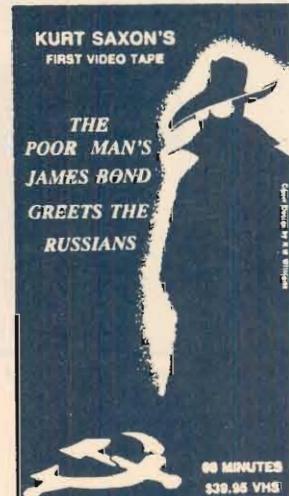
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AMT:

# Automag II .22 Magnum, 380 Backup Pistols

*Two stainless steel semiautomatic offerings from Arcadia Machine & Tool, Inc. designed for self defense and hunting, etc...*



The .380 Backup pistol and Automag II are stainless steel with matte finishes and black grips.

By Jim Benson

**A**MT (that's Arcadia Machine & Tool, Inc.) of Irwindale, California, has a reputation for making high quality firearms ranging from .22 rifles to .45 pistols. A new gun is chambered for the .30 Carbine round.

We recently tried out two handguns in their line, the .380 Backup and Automag II semiautomatic pistols. These were designed for self defense and, in the case of the unique Automag II, for hunting as well.

The .380 Backup semiautomatic pistol holds 5 rounds in the magazine. It's intended as a reliable pocket security pistol for civilians and law enforcement personnel. It's small, thin and easily concealable. Finish is matte stainless steel with black plastic checkered grips.

There are two safeties on the .380,



The .380 has a trigger-lock safety but it was not designed to be carried with a round chambered. A round should be chambered only when you are ready to shoot.

a grip safety like that on the 1911-A1 and a trigger lock button safety on the left side of the pistol behind the trigger. Sights are a crude notch and blade arrangement since this gun is not designed for much range.

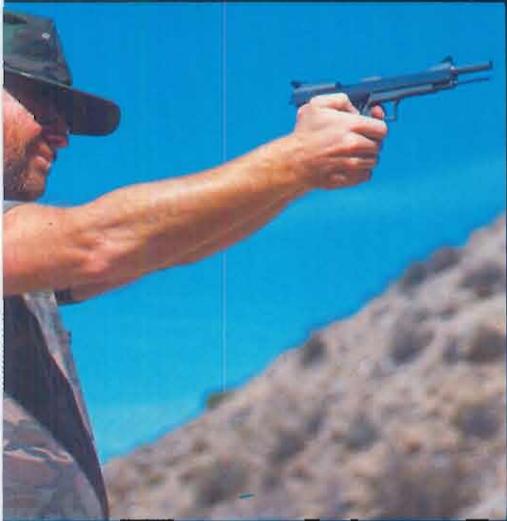
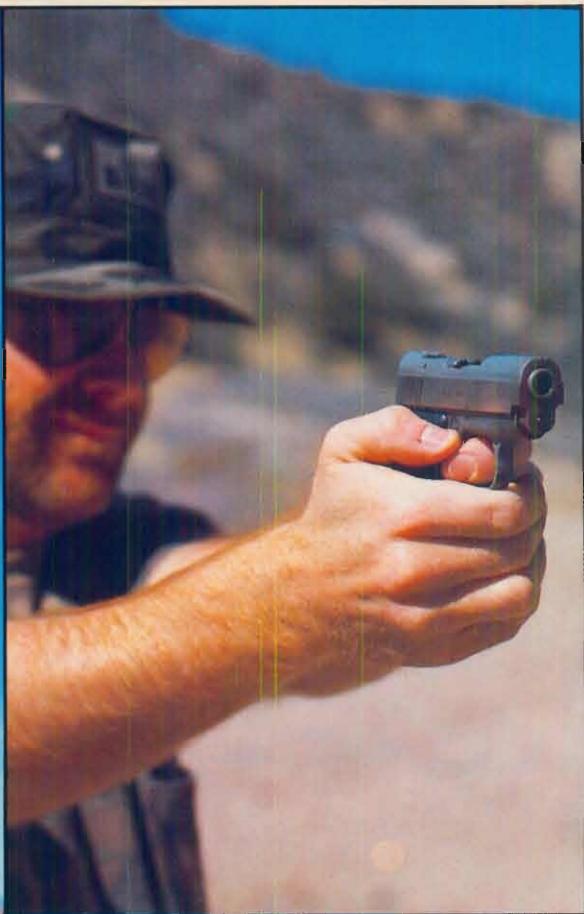
It is made to fire .380 Automatic full metal jacketed ammunition but will also fire some hollow point cartridges. Our gun was throated to handle the potent Winchester Silvertip hollow

point round. This is a minor gunsmitting job and can be done quickly by a competent gunsmith. This handy little pistol has been around for nearly 15 years now and has proven itself as a compact, reliable backup gun for self defense.

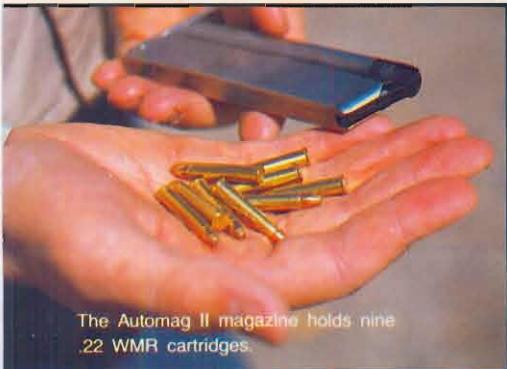
The Automag II is, as far as we are aware, the only semiautomatic .22 Magnum (Winchester Magnum Rim-

(Continued on page 52)

AMT's .380 Backup pistol provides five shots and is easily concealable in a pocket.



The Automag II .22 Magnum pistol utilizes a unique gas-channeling system for smooth, reliable operation.



The Automag II magazine holds nine .22 WMR cartridges.

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Length, open:	8 1/4"
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Blade thickness:	3/16"
Weight, knife:	7.6 oz
Weight, sheath:	.9 oz



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Venezuelan soldiers allow their picture to be taken at a highway checkpoint. The soldier on the right carries an Uzi submachine gun (Deanna McMullen).

Exploring the Venezuelan countryside has its hazards (Deanna McMullen).

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Length overall: 14 3/4"  
Blade thickness: 5/16"  
Weight, knife: 18.0 oz  
Weight, sheath: 6.5 oz



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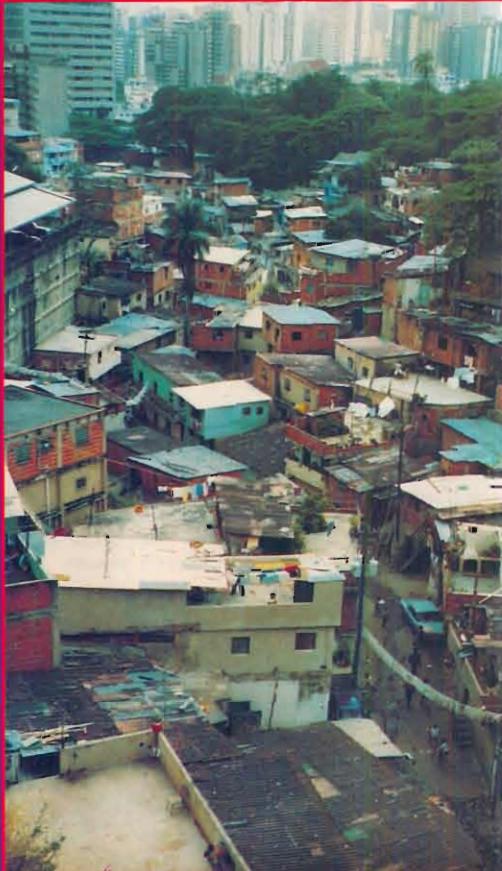
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A slum area next to a hotel in Caracas where the McMullens stayed. While the McMullens were walking along the street shown here thugs attempted to rob them (Evelyn Currie).

**Expect The Unexpected:**

# Foreign Travel Troubles

*Unforeseen red tape and a lack of familiarity with the local culture led to problems and dangers on a South American off-roading trip for Tom and Deanna McMullen . . .*

**Staff Report**

**T**OM McMullen, chairman of McMullen Publishing, and his wife Deanna say they've learned some valuable lessons about foreign travel safety and procedures after an aborted four-wheel drive excursion in South America.

Flying to Caracas, Venezuela, in February where they met some friends and all of them purchased new 4WD Jeeps, the McMullens planned to drive with their companions through Venezuela and Brazil. They were going to leave their Jeep in storage in Sao Paulo and fly home from Asuncion, Paraguay, three weeks after arriving on the continent.

But unforeseen difficulties in getting permission to drive their new vehicle out of Venezuela led to repeated delays there and only a few days spent actually traveling through the countryside and off-roading before they had to return to the U.S. During their stay in Venezuela they were the victims of an attempted robbery near one of the hotels they stayed in in Caracas and experienced tremendous frustration as they attempted to persuade government officials to let them leave the country. Even the return trip home was not without its difficulties.

"Venezuela, once you got out of the tourist areas, was very friendly," said Tom McMullen. "Everything was great. Gas was only 15 cents a gallon, the food was cheap (and good), leather goods and other stuff were real cheap. The hotels were good and pretty cheap." And they enjoyed their brief travels



Caracas, Venezuela, where the travelers stayed for weeks attempting to get government permission to drive their 4WD vehicles into Brazil (Evelyn Currie).

through the countryside while they waited for government officials to process their papers, he said. But because of the longer than anticipated delays, they were unable to see enough of the sights and do much serious off-roading. "Every single day they (Venezuelan government officials) said, 'tomorrow, mañana, mañana, mañana.' Every day you waited for the next day to go and every day they said the same thing — 'tomorrow.' And so there you were on the edge of your seat for 21 days and you never got to go."

**Problems On Arrival** — Arriving at the airport in early February, their troubles began right away. They each brought 200 pounds of equipment with them — clothes, emergency supplies,

medicines, insect repellent and towing gear, etc. They went through customs at the airport quickly, loaded all their belongings into a taxi and headed for their hotel.

They were pulled over at a military checkpoint as soon as they got on the highway and all their belongings were promptly confiscated by soldiers who told them, through their driver/interpreter, that they did not have the proper papers for their baggage. After much time haggling with the soldiers, their driver convinced them to pay a \$160 (2,000 Venezuelan Bolivars) bribe and they were allowed to leave the checkpoint with their baggage. They wound up paying quite a few such bribes, politely referred to as "tips" in order to get around in the country,

# Foreign Travel Troubles



Some of the roads the group traveled in Venezuela were primitive and a 4WD vehicle was the only way to go.

though this first one was the largest.

The next day after picking up their new Jtep at the local Jeep dealership, they learned that there is a Venezuelan law requiring all new vehicles to remain in the country at least six months.

Thus began a more than two-week delay while they sought to persuade Venezuelan officials to permit them to drive to Brazil.

"The bottom line was they (the new vehicles) have to be six months old before you can leave the country. It's a law. And nobody seemed to know that, or they forgot," McMullen said. "So we ended up spending three weeks going from pillar to post and from place to place trying to talk to the right people and get letters and get paperwork and get releases and bribing officials," he said.

"I had no idea of the problems we

would run into. For a stranger down there it can be rather scary." He noted that one day during the wait they had decided to go for a walk outside their hotel. They wound up strolling through a slum area next to the hotel and noticed they were being followed.

"A couple of guys said something to us in Spanish," said Deanna McMullen. "We just kept walking and were almost out (of the ghetto). Tom said one guy was following us, but then he was in front of us. I looked back and saw a couple of guys running up on us. I told Tom . . . we should run. He thought I was kidding. No sooner had I said that than they rushed us. One came over to me and grabbed me at the neck trying to get my necklace. I grabbed for it and my glasses got knocked off."

There was a brief scuffle and the McMullens ran away from their assailants. They later returned with a police-

man but the perpetrators were gone. Back at the hotel Deanna found she still had on most of her necklace and had lost only one part of it.

"I guess we were really lucky," she said. "We knew we shouldn't wear any jewelry and thought we'd left everything in the (hotel) room. We just forgot I had them."

A foreigner should, as the guide books say, avoid looking well to do, Tom McMullen noted. He became aware of the crime problems in Caracas when he noticed that police ride "dirt bikes" so they can maneuver quickly through the heavy auto traffic. They all wear ballistic vests and carry machine pistols, he said. "The bad guys ride motorcycles and they pull up to you at intersections, put a gun in your face and take everything you've got and then they split between the traffic and nobody can catch them . . . Don't look like you've got any money. Wear your worst clothes. Let your car get dirty. I mean don't look like you've got a dime because they're going to get you."

If he had known then what he knows now about the situation there, McMullen said, "I would have had that paperwork in my hands for those Jeeps before I left the U.S."

While they waited they did take a couple of days and traveled into the Venezuelan countryside, visiting some wilderness areas and parks. They were ordered out of some areas by Venezuelan officials and frequently had to pay bribes to soldiers at military checkpoints on the highways, Tom McMullen said.

While traveling in the countryside they found that their maps were not always reliable. "If you know you're going to a certain place you can be pretty sure that the place exists but the road will show (on the map) paved and it won't be paved, or it'll show unpaved and it might be paved. Even if it's paved you have no idea what you're going to get for a road."

Some of the maps they used they bought in the U.S. and others they purchased in Venezuela but all of them proved unreliable, he observed. "One showed a highway over 1,000 miles long and it didn't even exist," he said. "It had never been built. Somebody told the auto club that they were going to put that highway in years ago and they put it on the map but it's not

there. There's nothing there." After nearly three weeks of waiting, the McMullens and the rest of their party, including their friends Frank and Evelyn Currie, were told by Venezuelan officials they could drive through Venezuela and wait at the border town of Santa Elena de Uairen and a plane would fly to them there with their papers allowing them to cross the border and continue on their journey into Brazil. This they did, arriving at the border town after a two-day road trip.

But the plane was late in coming and the McMullens ran out of time. Their companions waited a few days longer and were eventually able to continue on into Brazil before returning to the U.S. Tom and Deanna McMullen drove back to Caracas.

Their homebound airline reservations from Asuncion were not honored and they had to buy new tickets and pay \$100 extra for only half the baggage weight they entered the country with. But they did return safely to the U.S., leaving their Jeep in storage at the dealership in Caracas. Tom has the option of selling it there — "I'll probably take a beating if I do" — or returning later for it and trying again to travel through Brazil as they had originally planned.

One bright spot of their trip was that they managed to leave Venezuela only days before rioting broke out and many people were killed over a government economic austerity plan including a devaluing of the currency. In this respect the McMullens considered themselves fortunate.

If you are planning a trip to a foreign country, Tom McMullen said, "read everything you can get your hands on about the country before you go." Although they felt they learned a lot from the travel books they consulted before the trip (the Prentice Hall 1989 *South American Handbook* and Fodor's '89 *South America*) there were things they would like to see added to those guides to help other American travelers.

"Be prepared," Tom McMullen said. "Take every map you can find, read everything you can about the specific country you're going to. Deal in their currency. Don't even show an American dollar bill there because you don't know what it's worth." The best currency exchange rates are at banks or other financial outlets in the country you travel in, he said. "Try not to look like an American Tourist, because you're going to be had." ●

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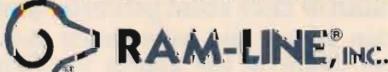
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# High Risk Hiking

## Marijuana Farms:

*Any person entering a suspected area should learn to observe for signs that traps or people are present and learn a few rules of conduct...*

By W. Ed Poe

ACCORDING to a recent report of recreational travel, there are over 98,000 miles of trails, 75,000 miles of fishing streams and over 191 million acres of rolling forest and grasslands in our national forest system.

These figures do not reflect state owned or privately owned forest areas. Add the State and private sectors and we have an over-abundance of fantastic areas for hiking, backpacking, fishing, canoeing or just passing away the time in a campsite. And, in most cases, any one of these areas may be just a few minutes drive from where you live.

Sounds great doesn't it? It is great, and we, as U.S. citizens are very fortunate to have such a large land reserve available to us. However, like most good things, there are some problems within these areas that you should be aware of if you plan to enter them for recreation. These problems are growing daily and will continue to do so until the governments decide to declare total war against the producers of marijuana, instead of declaring lip-service war just to get elected or re-elected to a job.

The marijuana growers have invaded our recreational areas in such mass that our regular law enforcement personnel are unable to cope with the problem.

Not only are additional laws, money, equipment and training needed to combat this problem, but many more well trained personnel.

Some reports have indicated the

growers and "weed" have been reduced by as much as 60 percent in our national forests. That figure sounds good to me if it is factual. It is a good beginning. Until such time as the growers and goons are pushed out of business and into the jails for long stays, I suggest that you and your hiking friends be extremely careful when enjoying the pleasures of the great outdoors.

The front-line law enforcement effort is small, but has a very high morale factor and good track records to show for many long and hazardous manhours in the combat zones and court rooms.

They also spend many hours of special training, planning and looking over their shoulders to be sure a big-time producer has not put a price on their heads. A recent news item from South American noted a million dollar bounty for any U.S. Drug Enforcement Agent. If the marijuana trade continues to spread, that kind of money might be put out for some local enforcement people, too.

There have been good advancements in equipment and special operations training for some front-line enforcement people, but not near enough training, nor enough people. If for example, more enforcement people were taught proper recon tactics, ambush tactics and proper use of some of their hi-tech equipment, the percentage of captures would probably increase two-fold. The grower's know every trick of the trade and the armed guards (goons) know as much or more about perimeter protection as our law enforcement personnel. Many of the guards are former vets with a lot of boondie experience, perimeter protection device knowledge

and retain their urge to hurt or kill, especially if the pay is right.

As you enter the recreational areas (or your neighbor's back forty), be sure and get a map of the main trails and campsites. Wandering out of the main areas and onto side trails could become a costly mistake. The growers are not as likely to work in the highly traveled areas. They tend to plant and harvest where the public normally does not trek. If, however, the needed water supply is near or on the regular trails, they will use the area and then try to keep people out by whatever means they feel they can get away with includ-

ing booby traps that harm and alerting devices that do no more than make a loud noise.

Other trap devices may include, but not be limited to, armed guards, falling log traps, explosive devices, shotgun traps, foot and leg traps, poison feeds for animals, fragmentation grenade booby traps, pungi-stake traps of several varieties or very mean dogs. Any person entering a suspected area should learn to observe for signs that traps or people are present and learn a few rules of conduct.

Following any or all of the below suggestions may save your life or prevent serious pain or injury. You might want to set up a pre-hike session with your fellow hiker/campers to review the suggestions.

Watch where you walk. Be aware of unusual items on the trails or outer perimeter of camping areas.

Do not touch or kick the unusual items, including strings, ropes or stretched wires. Do not investigate their origin.

Stay on mapped/mark trails when possible.

Move slowly and carefully. Be prepared to move in any direction which may carry your body away from a hazard.

If in groups, let any trained point man be the lead walker, or at least anyone with good eyesight.

If "Posted," "Keep-Out" or "Danger" signs are found, be they official looking or homemade, follow their directions: Keep the hell out! Within a few feet of the sign, a booby trap may be waiting for a hard-headed hiker.

If other persons are seen and they



Within a few meters of this location a guard was on duty. Sweat, sore muscles and recon "smarts" proved effective in his arrest.

Canoeing can be fun but hazardous in more ways than one. If signs of pot growers are found, keep paddling.

Good recon and slow, careful movement by this law enforcement officer netted a guard arrest.

do not appear to be campers or forest service personnel, leave them alone. Change directions if possible.

Do NOT attempt to deactivate any boobytrap that you might encounter. Mark the area for other hikers and report the finding to law enforcement personnel. Let the professionals handle the deactivation.

Report any unusual items or movements of persons or vehicles to law enforcement personnel. Let them sort out the good from the bad.

Always have a first-aid kit, knife and some type of emergency signal device with you when hiking.

**Recon** — When trouble erupts, such as a raid by law enforcement personnel, the "farmers" and the lab workers

are the first to high-tail it out of the area. They have special trails to follow or vehicles stashed in various places to make their get-away. Good recon prior to a raid usually covers all escape routes and potential vehicles. The bad guys that are left to protect the crop or the processing lab are the guards. They can be very dangerous, especially in the first few minutes of a raid.

The guards may be dressed in coveralls or the best set of BDUs. Their weapons may include full auto Uzis, M16s or a single shot 12 gauge shotgun. Regardless of what weapon they have, they will know how to use it, especially if they get boxed in. Many of the security personnel are former vets with plenty of experience in booby

traps, perimeter defense and kill methods. Some may appear as backwoods rednecks, but looks do not tell the story of their experience or urge to do their jobs.

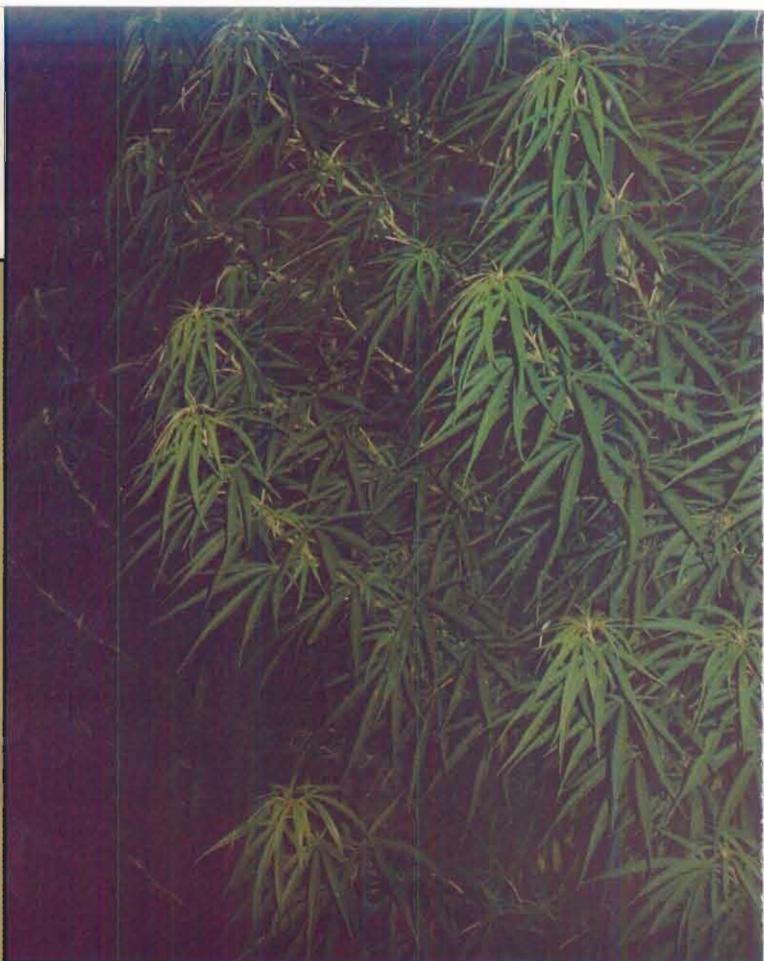
If you are approached by anyone on the trail and that person tells you to "Get the hell out of here!"... do it! Do not try to argue with him or try to be a John Wayne. That's a dumb move.

One very careless act that can quickly get you into trouble is spending too much time looking at things you should not be seeing. If you are canoeing down a river and see a crop of "grass" growing, keep moving. Stopping to investigate might not be healthy. When time comes to set up camp on a trail or along the river, I suggest a recon-

This "deer stand" was actually a guard station for a weed field. Good recon by law enforcement personnel located the station prior to a raid on the field.

# High Risk Hiking

Finding any of these items along a trail may mean a series of traps are in the area. Walk carefully and be alert.



Night recon and photography evidence brought forth a good case in court that stuck against the operators of this illegal pot farm.



Monofilament fishing line is hard to see in any type of natural surroundings. As a booby-trap trip line, it is one of the best.



If you're not careful you could stumble onto people like these while hiking in a national forest or national park. They could be pot farm goons or law enforcement personnel. Either way you want to avoid interfering with their activities.

naissance of the surrounding area to assure that you are not setting up camp next to a crop or a potential lab. If you spot any signs or quasi-structures, where they should not be... move on. Stopping to stare or take photographs of any unusual site may cause the security personnel to get antsy. You do not want that problem in the middle of the boonies.

A prime sign of a potential marijuana field is dead fish in a river or dead wildlife ashore and along the trails. Crops require a lot of fertilizer which may wash into the streams and kill fish. In the case of dead fish, you will probably be downstream from the field. The "farmers" also put out a lot of animal type poisons to kill off any wildlife that may destroy, by whatever

means, the crop. If you see dead wildlife in an area, try moving away as soon as possible.

Be aware of any unusually high number of deer stands; tree types or man made tower types. If there seems to be too many deer stands for a small area, you may be looking at guard stations. It would be best to leave the area.

Finding piles of trees in no-cut/no-

fire forest areas may mean a field has been cleared for a crop. Also, the pile of trees and/or brush may be a well concealed guard "cubbie-hole." It is unusual to find these piles along the basic or main trails. Most likely, a wandering hiker would run into that type of problem. Making a fast about face would be a wise move in this situation.

Canoers and rafters should remain alert for man-made water re-direction systems along rivers and streams. Marijuana requires a lot of water to grow properly. "Farmers" and workers have been known to change a creek's direction of flow to irrigate the field. In most cases, any legal or authorized water route changes will be on your guide maps. Even if the re-routing is deep enough and wide enough for your canoe, I suggest you stay in the main stream and keep on going.

The hard-to-see monotype fishing lines are the most frequently used booby trap or alarm system trip lines. The line is strong and very difficult to see when covered with leaves or blending debris. Some hikers carry walking sticks to check out any suspicious piles of leaves or any other unusual items on the trail. If the walking stick is used in a light manner, it can detect strings and pungi-stake holes without releasing the string or causing the hole top to fall in. Please note that I said, "in a light manner." Using the stick like a baseball bat may cause the trap to activate. Pungi-stake holes may also have a line that activates a second trap which could blow your head off.

Should, by chance, your foot or walking stick make contact with a tripline, stop immediately. If your foot or stick is still suspended in air, hold it there. Relax, breathe slowly and let the foot/stick move slowly and carefully in the reverse direction. Once the line is away from your foot or stick, pivot on the other foot and try to re-step your last foot imprints, if possible. Get away from the device. It may still activate even though you did not totally force the line forward. Leave the area as soon as you mark the trail to warn off others.

As was mentioned in the rules, DO NOT try to de-activate the trap. Some traps have a back-up device to protect the main trap. Trying to solve one problem may cause a more severe secondary problem for you.

Disturbed leaves, loose or freshly dug dirt or other unusual debris may be an indication of a foot/leg trap. This

type of trap is designed after the Viet Cong pungi-stake trap except that the bottom of the hole may have very long sharp nails which will pierce the soles of most hiking shoes or boots. Or, in some cases, the bottom of the hole will house a very large steel trap. The steel trap could easily amputate a child's leg. Even though the military boots are not as comfortable as the modern hiking shoe or boot, I prefer them in areas where traps may be found. The steel protective plate in the sole and the tough fabric or leather around the ankle may help reduce any injury. The U.S. M-83 Boot and the U.S. Jungle Boots are recommended for the hazardous areas.

**Alarms** — All trap devices may not be the type that will cause injuries or death. In some regions the growers prefer an audible alarm to killer devices. The alarm may sound at the point of activation or it may sound only in close range of the workers on-site. Regardless, if you trip a line, do not go any further up that trail. The next trap device may not be a simple sound device. Signs that alarm systems exist in an area are normally seen as wires in trees or strung across bushes. The lines usually run towards the field, or may be wires to the alarm system power source. Leave them alone.

A lot of our national park systems and many state-owned parks do not permit dogs within the park area, even if they are leashed. When trekking, keep a watchful eye out for dog prints and human prints, too. Some security systems in the forest areas call for the use of some very mean dogs. Pit bulls have been found at several sites.

Vehicles are many times a dead giveaway that "pot" is being grown in an area. If you see vehicles that do not match the forest worker vehicles, move in another direction. Many stolen 4x4s, pickup trucks and even some military vehicles have been found at the growing sites. The large amounts of fertilizer require the use of vehicles. The bad guys also hide getaway vehicles in brush piles or old abandoned barns. Leave the vehicles alone. Some have been found with perimeter protection devices.

If you are going into a specified area for camping, try to locate a park ranger or law enforcement person to find out if they have any problems within the area you wish to camp in. If either suggest you stay out of the area, it is best that you do so. There are other areas that are safe.

Once you set up camp, do not wander too far from it. At night keep your fire burning (if permitted) or some form of light going for as long as possible. Your fire or lights will alert any bad guys to your presence if they have not already spotted you. It is best to let them know you are there and have no plans to cause them problems. If they think you should leave, a couple of the goons might visit your camp or place a shot through your coffee pot. Either method seems to stir up enough energy to move the camp, regardless of how tired you thought you were.

If you hear odd noises around the camp, do not leave to investigate. If the noise happens to be law enforcement personnel that are in the woods for one reason or another, they will find you. Trying to see booby traps or armed guards in the night is not easy. Stay in camp and mind your own business... or at least look like you are trying to mind your own business.

There are plenty of forest/park areas of our nation's wilderness that are untouched by the drug and marijuana crud. The odds are that you will not encounter this type of person or their deadly traps, but I advise that you stay alert to any and all problems of such nature. Do not hesitate to make noise as you travel the trails or in your camp. Do not try to sneak around to prevent being seen. They may think you are law enforcement personnel and start shooting or setting off perimeter devices.

Upon return to civilization report any odd or unusual situation to the park rangers or other law enforcement people. If you actually see a growing field or one being harvested, try to mark it on the map for the authorities. If you do your share of being a good citizen within the forest and upon our rivers, the drug goons can be hurt so badly that they might decide to move out.

According to a recent Drug Enforcement Agency report, there is a boom in domestic growing. The DEA estimates that from 60 to 80 percent of the marijuana stays within the growing area and the remainder is shipped across state lines or into Mexico and Canada.

Marijuana is BIG business. They will do whatever is needed to grow, harvest, sell and protect their crop. If you or your family get in, or even get close to getting in, their way, I can assure you they will cause you harm. You can still enjoy our wilderness, but just be careful and smart. ☺

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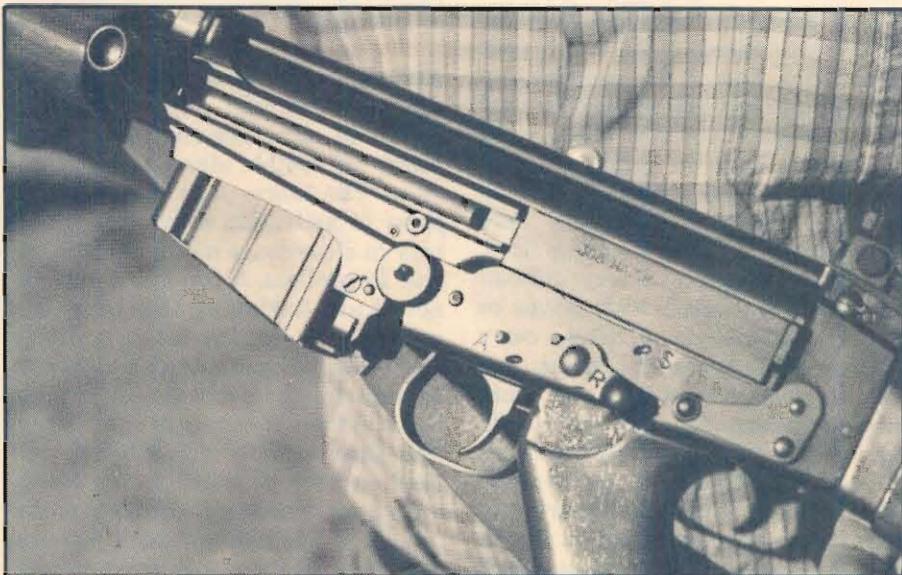
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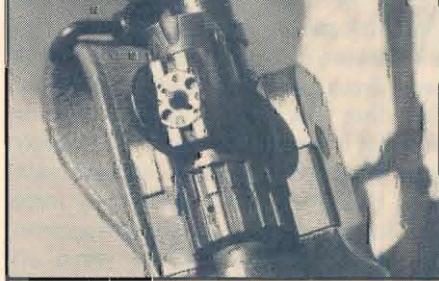
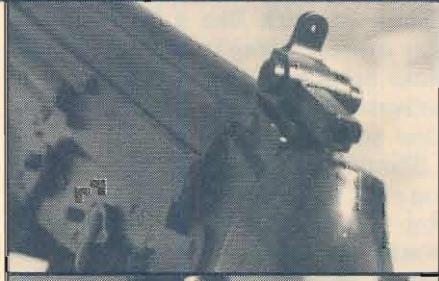
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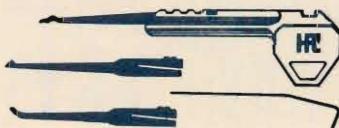


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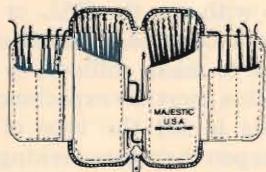
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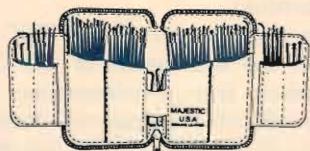
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Fabrique Nationale:

# FNC Assault Rifle

*Simplicity from the word go...*

By Bud Lang

ONE of the most popular military rifles in the world today is the Belgian FN FAL (Fusil Automatique Leger — or, Light Automatic Rifle), chambered for the equally popular 7.62mm NATO round. Of select fire design, it takes its cartridges from a 20-round box magazine.

As early as 1963, according to Edward Clinton Ezell's *Small Arms Of The World, 12th edition*, engineers at Fabrique Nationale began working on a new design that would accept the 5.56X45mm cartridge. What they came up with was the CAL, or Light Automatic Carbine, a gun that was expensive to make, difficult to service, and with a short life expectancy in combat. This is not the type of small bore weapon they were seeking, so the CAL was dumped and a completely new rifle designed for the 5.56mm cartridge was developed — the FNC assault rifle (FN Carbine).

When work began on the FNC design, all the drawbacks of the CAL were taken into consideration. FN engineers did their homework, because the FNC is simplicity from the word go. Here's a rifle that is easy to field strip — no tools are required — maintain and reassemble. It's also easy to manufacture. While the lower receiver is machined from an aluminum billet, the upper is of stamped sheet metal and steel casting. The upper and lower receivers hinge open so in this respect they're like the FAL. While the bolt and bolt carrier assembly are similar in design to the Kalashnikov, this assembly is refined and considered by some to be superior.



Howard Reed is a staunch advocate for the FNC. He shoots both the FNC and FAL on a regular basis.



The upper receiver of the FNC is fabricated from sheet metal stampings. The upper and lower parts hinge somewhat like the FAL.

The FNC's rotary bolt head features two opposing locking lugs and the unit locks up with the barrel extension, thus relieving the receiver assembly of having to absorb firing stresses. The bolt also features a small stud that joins the bolt with the bolt carrier. This stud is responsible for camming the bolt into the locked and unlocked positions. You'll also find a feed lug on the bolt that chambers fresh rounds from the magazine, and another lug that starts the bolt rotating and ensures primary extraction.

The bolt carrier assembly breaks down into three major components — the bolt carrier, the piston, and the piston rod, this latter component of which is hollowed out to accept the return spring. You'll find the cocking handle fitted into this assembly, too, and in addition to functioning as a charging handle it can also be used as a forward assist should a round not chamber easily. The cocking handle is also used to hold the bolt open.

The FNC comes with a tubular folding stock that is one of the best available. When compared to Colt's CAR-15 with its 16-inch barrel, the FNC comes with a 17.68-inch barrel, yet is about four inches shorter overall when both have their stocks folded. This stock is well-designed; it was adopted for the Galil. The well-balanced straight stock design of the FNC also cuts down on muzzle climb and lessens felt recoil.



Top to bottom: Colt's AR-15, H&K 93, and the FNC, three comparable rifles all chambered for the 5.56mm cartridge.

The FNC mag (left) is interchangeable with the Colt mag. Although of steel rather than aluminum it doesn't weigh much, and is a lot stronger. somewhat.

Another feature that makes the FNC desirable, even though it is minor, is the fact the front sling swivel rotates about the barrel. This allows the user to carry the FNC in just about any position with the sling. The CAR-15, for example, is only comfortable when



## FNC Assault Rifle



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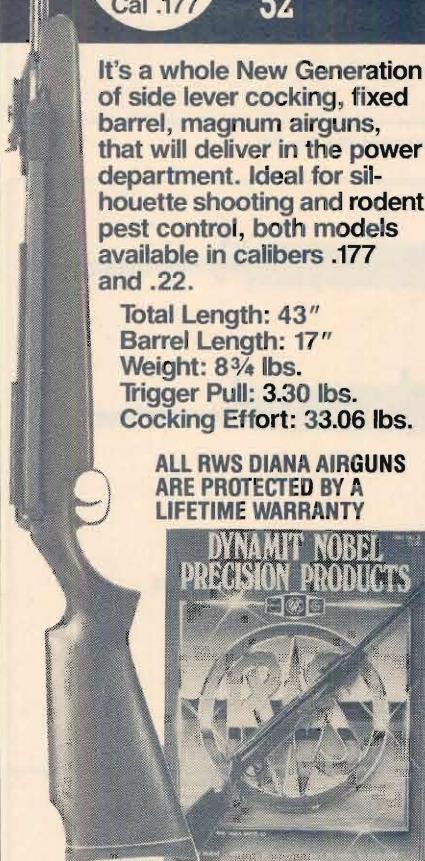
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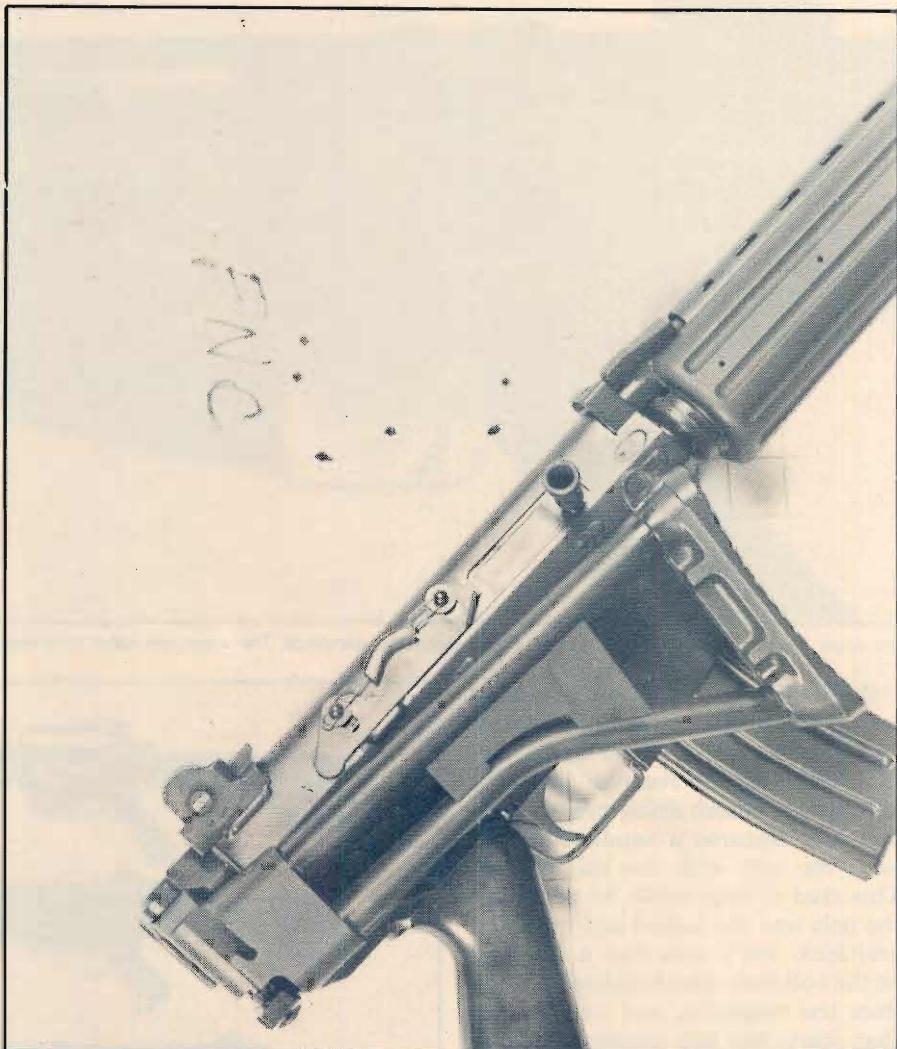


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Even with the folding stock folded, the FNC can be operated with ease.

carried over the shoulder. If you want to carry it in the assault position you have to run the sling through the front sight, which isn't too slick.

One more point in favor of this rifle over the AR-15 and similar guns is the fact that in the event of a stoppage, the operating knob can be actuated while the piece is still shouldered. A big draw back is the fact the bolt does not remain locked open upon firing the last round. If you run dry, after swapping magazines you have to recharge the gun. The FNC is a gas operated firearm. As propellant gases drive the bullet down the bore, part of the gas is bled off into the gas cylinder. You can adjust the regulator to provide just enough gas to satisfactorily operate the piston, which is driven back to operate the bolt carrier and drive it to the rear.

The 30-shot FNC magazine is fabri-

cated of steel, including the follower, and while it's slightly heavier than the aluminum Colt mags — which are interchangeable — they aren't that much so. The fact they're a heck of a lot stronger makes them worth every fraction of an ounce you have to carry. However, if these mags are used in a Colt, they won't actuate the bolt hold-open device when the last shot is fired, either.

It was in September 1980 that FN introduced their FNC 80 series rifles. These models came with one of two different barrel twist rates. The FNC Model number 2000 was offered with a 1-in-12-inch twist barrel for use with M193 military ammo, while the number 0000 came with a 1-in-7-inch twist barrel, designed to stabilize the later SS109 (XM855) bullet.

(Continued on page 43)

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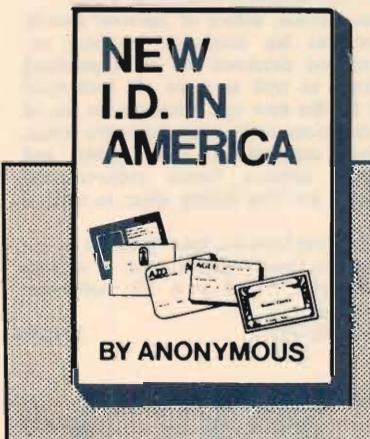
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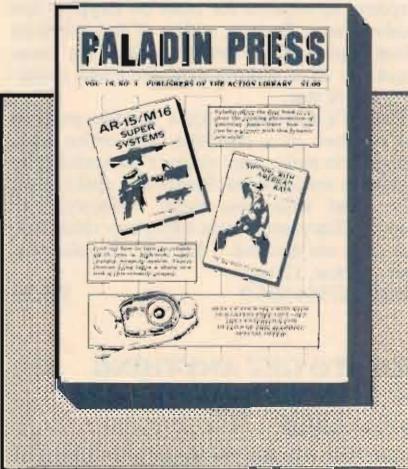
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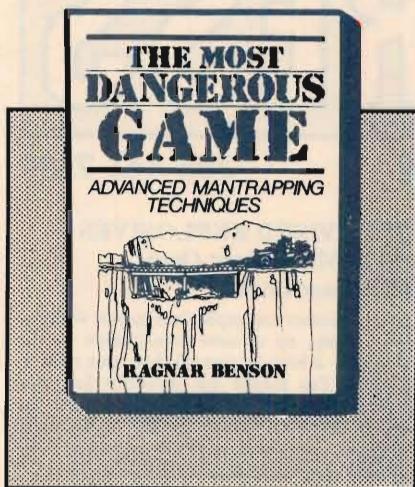
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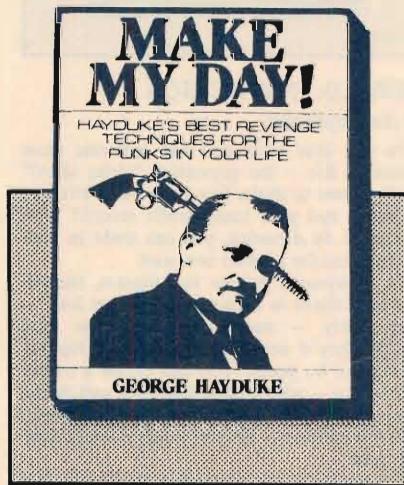


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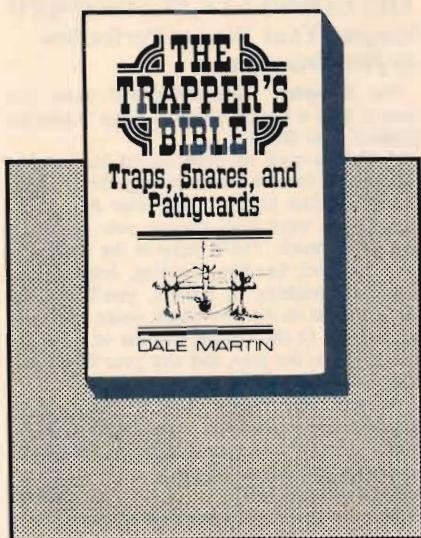
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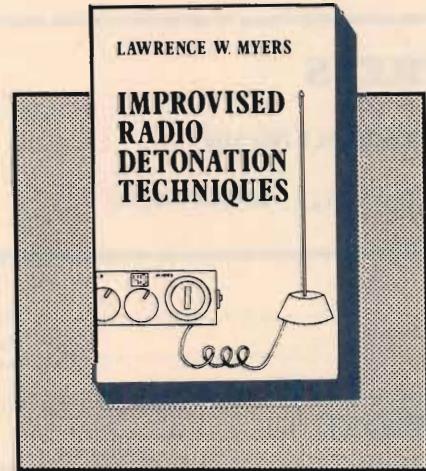
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# FNC Assault Rifle

(Continued from page 38)



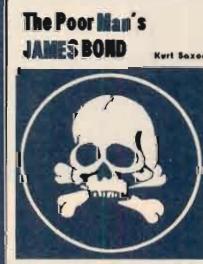
The FNC is gas operated, and by rotating the gas cylinder assembly, you can regulate gas pressure to the piston. This is important because if fouling begins to cause cycling problems, you can boost gas pressure.

The FNC also features an integral scope mount. The front sight is elevation adjustable with the sight correction tool, while the rear peep sight is windage adjustable. The rear sight is of the "L" configuration, with apertures for 250 and 400 meter ranges. Most of us will be using this rifle with the standard metallic sights, but they're good enough for most applications. I've shot this piece with a lot of different commercial ammo and have averaged three-inch five-shot groups quite often. The best I've come up with is a three-shot group of two inches, which is very respectable with these light bullets when you consider the FNC doesn't have a match trigger and the 100 yard bullet doesn't offer you match accuracy, either.

Of all the guns of 5.56mm type out there today, I feel the FNC is one of the best. Only the Galil can be considered to have any advantages over it. It's well-made, accurate, easy to operate and maintain, and is precision built. You can't ask for much more than that anyway you look at it. ●

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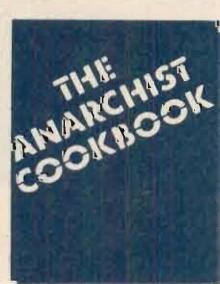
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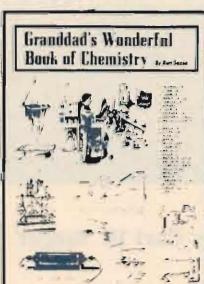
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Foreign-Born, Native Terrorists:

# Bringing America To Her Knees

*What makes the United States so vulnerable to a terrorist onslaught is the incredible array of targets in our society... .*



By Carl H. Yaeger

A near-splitting explosion rocks the western desert southwest of Salt Lake City. A key grounding point is destroyed and every telephone in six western states is neutralized.

A tiny relay in a Canadian power station is sabotaged and a portion of America's East Coast, from Maine to New Jersey, is plunged into darkness.

A terrorist organization fires a warhead from a Libyan-supplied rocket launcher at a liquified natural gas storage complex. The resulting holocaust turns several blocks of South Chicago into a raging inferno.

Members of a militant Jewish organization detonate bombs in the corporate

offices of a major company selling strategic goods to an Arab nation. Another corporation is attacked by a religious anti-Semitic neo-Nazi group for selling arms to Israel.

According to a recent survey, conducted by the FBI's Terrorist Analysis Center in Quantico, Virginia, terrorism is on the increase, domestically.

According to Brian Jenkins, a terrorism expert with the RAND Corporation, terrorism will be with us well into the next century, and will be used by many nations, routinely, as a method of conducting violent diplomacy and surrogate warfare against other states. More ominously, terrorist tactics will be utilized by private groups with an ax to grind against various government agencies, public utilities, private corporations, or troublesome private

citizens.

Already, some private armies have been organized and have taken to the field. Some are actually hit squads for foreign nations, such as the Islamic Al-Ruken in Chicago. It was recently reported by the FBI that this terrorist gang, formally known as the Blackstone Rangers, received several million dollars from Libya to carry out terrorist attacks on American targets.

What makes the United States so vulnerable to a terrorist onslaught is the incredible array of targets in our society. There are thousands of miles of unprotected railroad tracks, bridges, highways and culverts, switching facilities for trains, oil and gas pipelines and electrical transmission lines... all waiting for the terrorist bomb.

America is basically a trusting society. It is assumed that those facilities built for our good and comfort will be respected and left alone. We do not have barbed wire fences or guards around our national infrastructure as is found in other nations. This is a chink in our armor which terrorist groups will inevitably exploit.

Terrorists know that America's great Achilles' Heel is her technology. America is a nation of "techno-addicts." We are a population which is over dependent upon our technology.

We need our daily "fix" of tranquilizing television. We expect our plumbing to gush forth inexhaustable amounts of hot water when we shower, and when our toilets fail to flush, there is a sense of panic. We expect our electrical, petroleum, and natural gas lines to provide us with a never-ending source of energy.

The fragile life lines which feed into our urban areas are the life support systems which keep our vulnerable



Suicide attacks, such as this simulated one on a propane storage facility, are a distinct possibility, especially from some religious terrorist groups.

cities — like moon colonies — going. Cut the life lines, and you cut off life to millions of people. A good example of this is the Owens Valley aqueduct which brings water to Los Angeles from hundreds of miles away.

Our Achilles' Heel within our Achilles' Heel is a vast network of computers which regulates and controls our technology. They regulate airline and railroad traffic. They maintain the correct pressure for petroleum and natural gas compression stations, and most of them are automated and unprotected. Many of the compression relay stations for our pipeline networks are located in remote areas — sitting ducks for terrorists sabotage.

Remember the Arab oil embargo of 1973-74? The long lines for gasoline stretched America's nerves to the breaking point. Later, we had the constant supply of oil from the Alaska Pipeline. But this vital lifeline is one of our most vulnerable jugular veins. It snakes through hundreds of miles of remote terrain. Heating stations keep the petroleum-paraffin mixture warm enough to keep it moving. If these stations were sabotaged during the winter, the flow would slow to a waxy sludge and we'd wind up with an 800-mile tube of Chapstick.

**Melting Pot Lumps** — America has rightly been called the "Great Melting Pot." Waves of immigrants have fled to our shores from troubled lands and have shucked the past, throwing themselves and their energies into the work of becoming citizens. But a sizable minority have always brought the squabbles of the Old World with them, and injected them violently into the American political scene.

Remember Sirhan Sirhan, the Palestinian immigrant who assassinated

Robert Kennedy back in 1968? He was typical of the "lumps" which refused to melt... who kept the hatreds of the Old World alive in the New World — and exploded in tragedy.

There are many other "lumps" waiting to explode. Many people belonging to ethnic groups in America support, either actively or passively, terrorist counterparts in the Old World. Thus, a large group of Irish Americans have supported NORAD, the Northern Irish Aid Committee. American-Armenians in Los Angeles, have given aid and refuge to members of ASALA, the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia, while they were on assassination missions killing Turkish diplomats. The same is true of some American Spanish Basques, who give aid and support to the terrorist Basque ETA. A sizable number of Puerto Ricans have given aid and support to the Macheteros and the FALN separatist Marxist terrorist groups.

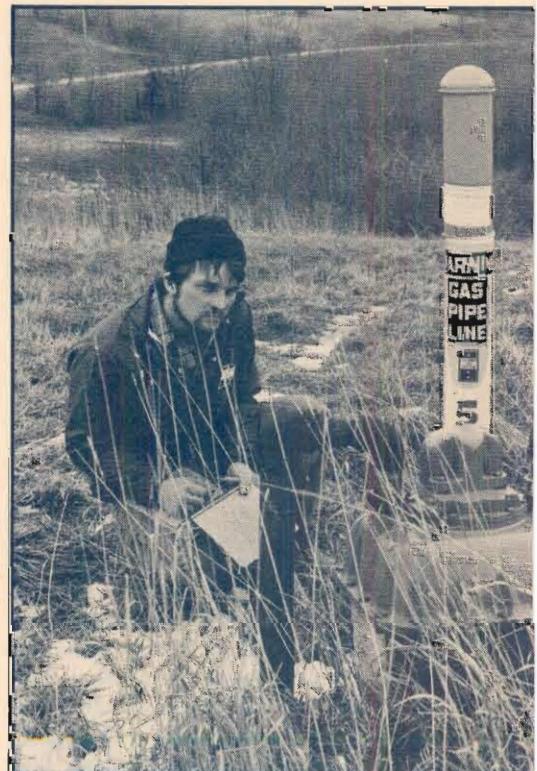
According to another FBI report, there are approximately 25,000 Shi'ite Moslems living in the United States. Many are unwavering in their loyalty to the Fundamentalist Islamic revolution and Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini.

There are so many Shi'ites in one Detroit suburb, that they have actually formed their own militia, are armed to the teeth, and vow that they will remain Shi'ite to the core. Combine this with the existence of thousands of Iranians at our colleges and universities — the largest bloc of foreign students — and you can surmise that if the Fundamentalist Islamic terrorist movement ever wanted to "sock it" to the U.S. they would have no trouble finding recruits for suicide truck bomb missions. This does not mean, however, that every member of these groups is a possible terrorist.

The terrorist mind-set does not end with the foreign born. On the contrary, some of the most active and dangerous terrorist groups in America today are found among white native Americans. These groups are generally anti-Semitic and racist, and see Jews and blacks at the root of America's social and economic problems. They advocate extreme solutions in regard to these problems — genocide against Jews and blacks, and a neo-Nazi approach to governing America.

Typical of this type of organization, is the Aryan Nations, an "umbrella" for a host of groups espousing right-wing terrorism. Spin-offs from the Aryan Nations are such well-known neo-Nazi terrorist groups as The Order, the Brotherhood, and the White American Bastion. Posing as a religious organization, the Aryan Nations has chaplains who actively recruit among inmates in America's prisons. When they are paroled to their church, the inmates undergo terrorist training at a variety of terrorist training camps.

Other groups, such as the paramilitary The Covenant, the Sword and Arm of the Lord, the Illinois-based Christian Defense League, and the scores of religious entities within the "Christian Identity Movement" — Christianity's counterpart to the resurgence of Fundamentalist Islam — all see the present system in the United States



Thousands of miles of gas pipelines criss-cross our country and are vulnerable, along with other energy and communications networks, to terrorist sabotage.

# Bringing America To Her Knees

as "ZOG" — which stands for Zionist Occupation Government, dominated by rich and influential Jews and controlled by and for the state of Israel.

A startling revelation showing the extent of Aryan Nations subversive activity, surfaced in Utah in November of 1987. An officer in the Utah State Guard, which is a voluntary state militia designed to take over when the Utah National Guard is called to active duty, was an Aryan Nation "mole," if you will. He had recruited and infiltrated up to 20 Aryan Nations members into the Guard, and was responsible for changing the training schedule.

The new recruits had access to military weapons and equipment, and were going through a form of rigorous commando-Special Forces type of training. The public safety officials within the state of Utah charged that the Aryan Nations was planning to use the State Guard as a vehicle to overthrow the legitimate government of the state.

Many of these "private armies" have their own visions of Armageddon and are "digging in," literally. The survivalist movement in the United States is, for the most part, composed of rational individuals who believe in preparing for the worst, and planning rational strategies for coping with disaster. But when radical politics become married to radical religion with a survivalist twist thrown in, the results are often bizarre.

The Aryan Nations has a survivalist compound in Hayden Lake, Idaho, complete with a guard to protect the leaders. the group has pictures of Jesus Christ and Adolph Hitler placed side by side. Hitler is considered a 20th century racial prophet. On the altar are the scriptures of the Aryan Nations, the *Old and New Testaments*, and *Mein Kampf*. The worshippers attend services in uniform, and when they pray, they stand... bow their heads to Christ, and raise their right arm in the Nazi salute to Adolph Hitler.

The Covenant, the Sword and the Arm of the Lord had an armed survivalist camp, before it was attacked by law enforcement agencies a few years ago, on the Missouri-Arkansas border named, appropriately, MO-ARK.

The Christian Defense League has designated a huge, trapazoidal shaped area in America's mid-section as the mid-American Survival Zone. It is here

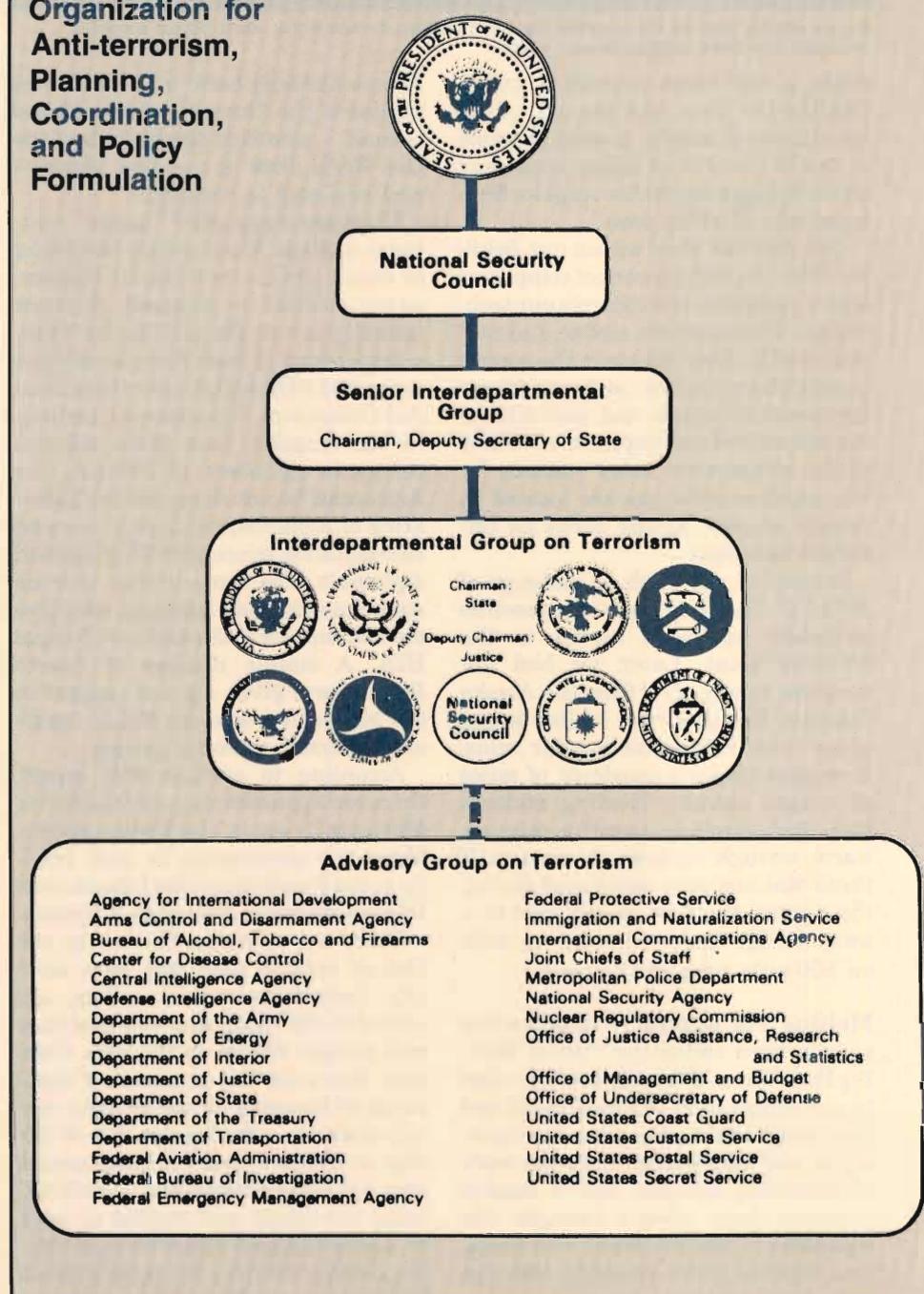
that the Christian faithful will make their last stand and fight to the death when the Jews, blacks, and communists take over America, members say.

Federal, state and local law enforcement authorities are beginning to take notice of the threat to the nation's infrastructure and are acting to protect the vital lines of communications

and power that keep our country functioning. But is enough being done?

With increased terrorist activity forecast for the coming years, measures to protect our infrastructure should be considered and implemented at the earliest opportunity. The terrorist threat is a real one and must not be ignored. •

## U.S. Government Organization for Anti-terrorism, Planning, Coordination, and Policy Formulation



The U.S. government organizational structure for combatting terrorism at home and abroad. This structure is large and involves many agencies. How effective is it?

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Staff Report

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# Skin Cancer

*Many of us are frequently treated to one of the more painful effects of too much exposure to the sun...*

## Three Types:

burn. Unfortunately, fair skinned people are particularly susceptible, though burns usually prove to be only the tip of a very dangerous iceberg. Not until later in life will you feel the cumulative results of repeated, low doses of the sun's harmful ultraviolet radiation in the form of skin cancer.

According to estimates from the Skin Cancer Foundation, 95 percent of all basal cell carcinomas can be directly linked to chronic overexposure to sunlight. Catch a few too many "rays," sunburns, or deepen that "healthy" looking tan too much, and you could



There are enough products available today for protection from the sun that you really have no excuse for not protecting yourself.

By G.J. Sagi

As the sun slowly began to peak over the eastern horizon, I finally spotted my favorite fishing hole. Soon the entire lake was ablaze in the reds and oranges, so typical of sunrise at most high altitude trout waters. Though unspoiled flyfishing was my public excuse, it was pine studded scenery like this that always beckoned me back.

With a convincing jerk on the end of my line, a keeper rainbow squirted from the icy depths below. As we engaged in mortal combat, his aerial acrobatics periodically disappeared in the water's glare.

As usual, that enjoyable morning fishing proved all too short. With my limit cleaned and on ice, I took one last look, promised to be back soon, and started the long journey home... but unless I begin to religiously follow some simple precautions, I may never return.

Whichever of today's widely varied outdoor sports you choose to participate in, they all share one dangerous common denominator. Whether you're skiing, swimming, climbing, hunting, or playing softball, you face constant exposure to the sun's potentially damaging rays.

Many of us are frequently treated to one of the more painful effects of too much exposure, commonly called sun-

develop skin cancer, regardless of your age.

The National Cancer Institute logged nearly 500,000 new cases of nonmelanoma skin cancer during 1986, and that number is rapidly increasing. More than one out of seven Americans will develop it in some form, and 40 to 50 percent of people living to age 65 will have at least one.

Cancerous cells are typically characterized by uncontrolled growth, and rapid spread. While normal cells reproduce in an orderly manner literally designed to replace any that are damaged or worn out, cancerous cells grow at a furious pace until a tumor is formed. Left undetected, it can become large enough to interfere with vital



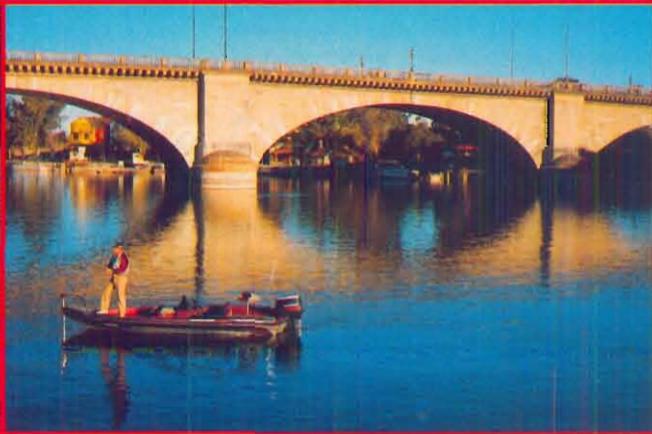
On the water, the sun's  
damaging rays attack  
you from above and  
from the glare off  
the water.



Parents should be especially careful in protecting  
their babies from exposure to UV radiation which  
can lead to skin cancer later in life. Special  
sunblock lotions are now available for children.

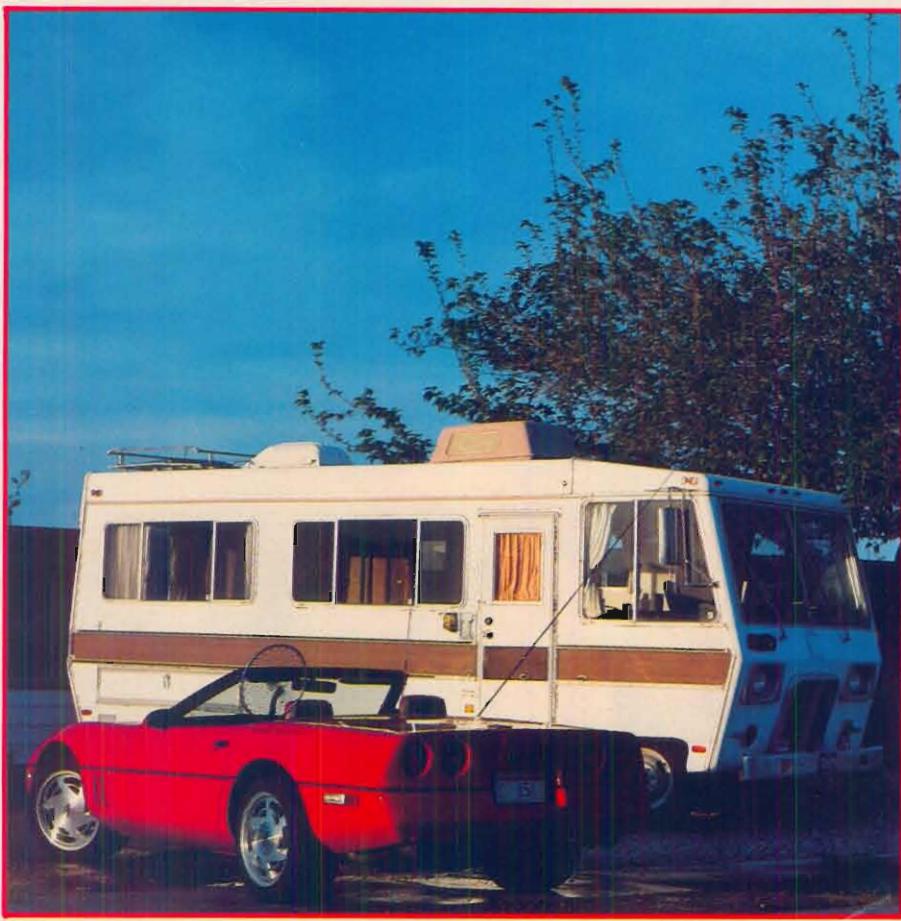


Any outdoor activity, no matter how abbreviated, adds to the sun's  
cumulative damage.



Fishermen are among those most at risk for overexposure and skin  
cancer later in life.

# Skin Cancer



RVers and convertible owners in particular should be aware of the dangers of skin cancer.

bodily functions, or cells can break away (metastasis), spreading the cancer throughout the body.

Basically, there are three distinct types of skin cancer that develop. The most common form is known as basal cell carcinoma, and it showed up in nearly 400,000 cases last year. Another 100,000 appeared as squamous cell carcinoma, with malignant melanoma (which accounts for 75 percent of all skin cancer deaths) afflicting another 27,000 people. This year alone over 8,000 people will die, from what is usually an easily treatable disease. But like most cancers, it must be caught in time.

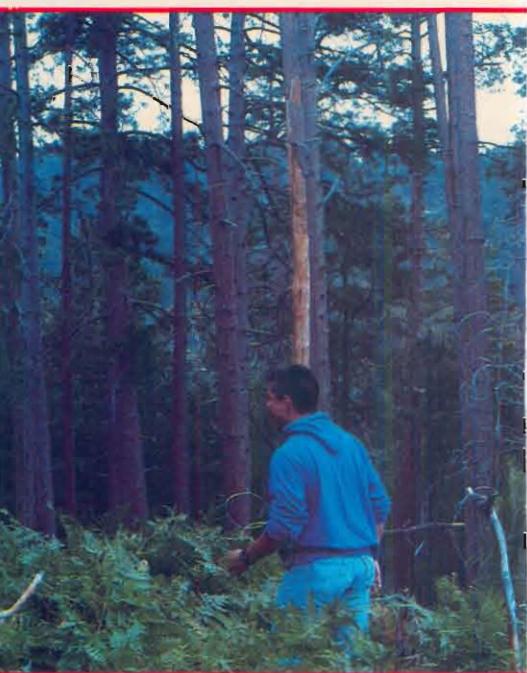
The main cause of skin cancer is repeated exposure to the sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation. As is the case with any radiation, UV damage accumulates over the years, until finally the problem develops.

A thin layer of ozone in the atmosphere blocks most radiation from ever reaching the Earth. But because of an increase in the use of fluorocarbons, the shield is steadily growing weaker.

In fact, recent studies have shown that there are complete holes in the ozone layer above the north and south poles. As a result, the odds of contracting skin cancer are on the increase.

**Fair Skin Susceptibility** — Though anyone exposed to the proper amount of sunlight can develop skin cancer, red or blonde hair helps put you at greater risk. Blue or green eyes, and light skin that tends to freckle rather than tan, also increases incidence. Blacks display a much lower rate of skin cancer, simply because they have a higher concentration of melanin in their skin, which helps protect them from the UV radiation's damaging effects (though they still can develop skin cancer). A good rule of thumb is, the more easily you sunburn, the more susceptible you are.

Outdoorspeople in particular are prone to skin cancer. Fishermen may feel the direct exposure from above, but the water's intense glare can almost double the problem. Climbers too must contend with a reflection off the rock



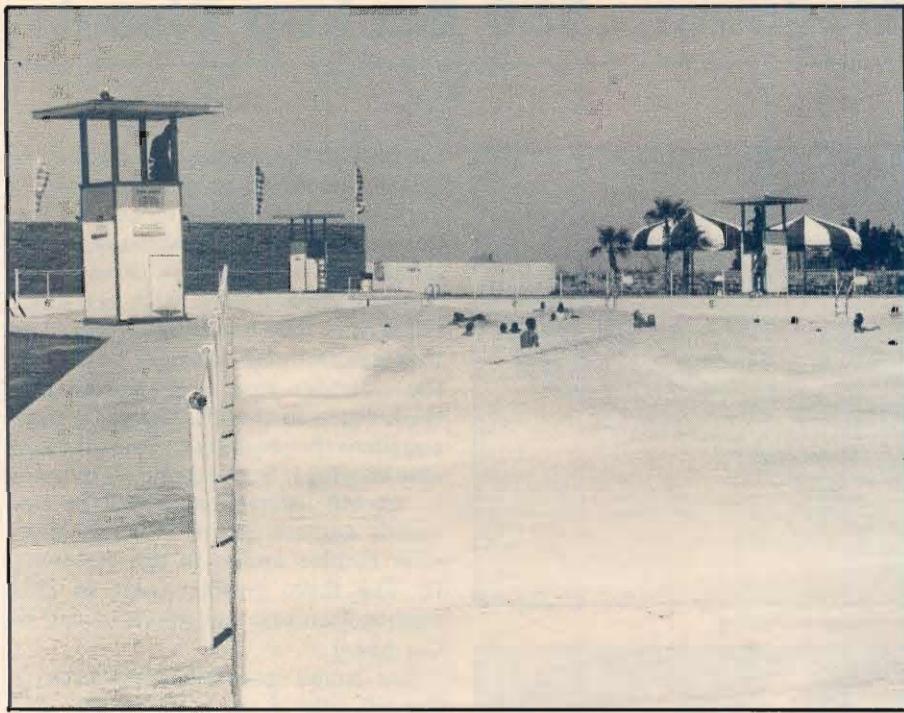
Cooler temperatures in the high altitude woods can spell trouble for unknowing hikers who may mistakenly feel they're safe from the sun's harmful radiation.

face they're working.

The dazzling radiation off snow is enough to cause snow blindness, and greatly increase the amount of UV rays skiers are exposed to. Consider too the fact that nearly all of these activities take place in high altitudes, where there's even less of an atmospheric shield, and it doesn't take long to realize just how dangerous going outdoors unprepared can be.

One of the best and simplest protections is to religiously wear a long sleeved shirt. Avoid those loosely knit fabrics, since enough sunlight has been known to sneak through, to actually cause a sunburn underneath. Sure, long sleeves sounds dumb on a hot day or in the desert, but avoid tight fits to allow circulation, have a light color, and it's hard to beat. In 10 years with search and rescue in Arizona, I never go out without my arms covered. Nothing drains your water or energy faster than a bad sunburn.

You should wear a hat anytime you go outdoors. Besides being good protection against hypothermia, it's also an ideal defense from the sun. Remember your nose, ears, and back of your neck are places skin cancer likes to start, so when possible choose one with a wide brim. Baseball caps protect your face, and little else.



Catching a curl may not be all these swimmers get from repeated UV exposure. The popularity of wave action pools like this one also means danger of overexposure to the sun.

Don't bother with shorts, especially if you're fair skinned. Even in the desert, too many sticky things like to grab you, and there's nothing quite as painful as removing parts of a cholla (jumping cactus) from your upper leg.

Covering your hands and certain portions of your face are virtually impossible at times though, especially if the sun is being reflected off the water, concrete or snow. Not only that, but you'd look ridiculous swimming around in a long sleeved shirt. There are however, products on the market designed to chemically block UV radiation. Called sunblock, they come in many different formulas and strengths of interest to today's outdoorspeople.

Rated according to how well they screen out the sun's UV radiation, they come in strengths ranging from zero all the way to nearly 40. If you sunburn in only 10 unprotected minutes, properly applying a product with sun protection factor (SPF) 6, means you can stay in the sun without burning for up to 60 minutes. Coat yourself in SPF 20, and you won't sunburn for 200 minutes. The higher the SPF rating, the less UV radiation that seeps through to damage your skin.

**Children** — The parents of young children in particular, should start their kids towards a lifetime of good health, by always applying a sunscreen. Good habits learned in youth, translate to a healthy less wrinkly skin later in life.

The active ingredient that blocks most of the radiation is para-aminobenzoic acid, otherwise known as PABA. People with sensitive skin should look for products labelled "PABA FREE." It can be a severe irritant to some individuals, and you should never use sunscreens with PABA on infants less than a year old. Coppertone's Water Babies, and Johnson and Johnson's Baby Sunblock are good examples of products developed to deliberately avoid the problem.

For older kids with the tendency to consider their parents too careful, Coppertone makes Zinka Stick. With an SPF rating of 15, it comes in a handily indestructible container similar to Chapstik's. Only this is designed to be strictly applied to your lips. Best of all it comes in gaudy reds and oranges guaranteed to make your child stand out on the beach. Chapstik and Vaseline also make more traditional, invisible lip protection up to SPF 15.

For fisherman concerned with adding any chemical to their body or accidentally to their lures, Berkley (the same company that pioneered the use of fish attractants) offers Fisherman's Sunscreen. Available in SPFs of 15 and 22, its chemicals won't scare your fish away. Pete Rickard even has Camper's Lotion, which has a rating of 8, but features an insect repellent as well.

To my knowledge, no camouflage companies today include PABA in their formula. You may feel protected... but to UV radiation, you're naked. Instead apply a good waterproof sun-

screen underneath, then paint yourself up.

No matter which one you choose, always get a bottle small enough to keep handy. Sure it may cost more at first, but why have a sunscreen that's so hard to find, that you don't reapply enough?

And when at all possible, avoid exposure when the sun's most directly overhead (between 10 and 3). Even on overcast days remember to protect yourself. More radiation is coming through the clouds than you think, and severe sunburns have been known to occur.

Detecting skin cancer can be much harder than it sounds, simply because there is no typical look or form. Periodically examine your skin for anything out of the ordinary though, with particular attention to those areas exposed to sunlight.

The Skin Cancer Foundation says that the following can be warning signs:

— A growth that appears pearly, tan, translucent, brown black or multi-colored, that increases in size, or suddenly grows.

— A growth that continues to itch, bleed or scab.

— A mole that changes color, increases in size, or suddenly appears to thicken.

— An open sore or wound that persists, and doesn't heal for several weeks.

For more information, you can write the Skin Cancer Foundation at Box 561, New York, NY 10156. Or call for immediate answers at 1-800-4-CANCER. In Alaska dial 1-800-638-6070. For more information about "Sun Awareness," contact the Arizona Sun Awareness Project, Tucson, AZ 85724.

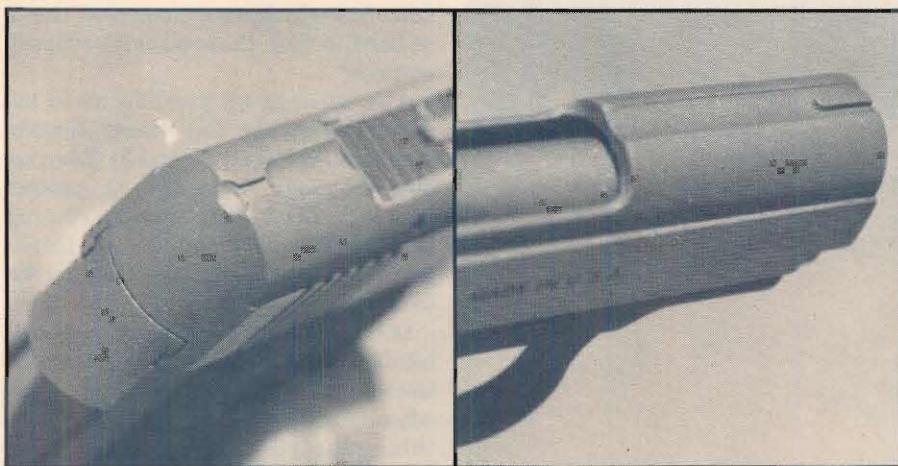
Better yet, if you spot anything suspicious or out of the ordinary, consult your doctor. It's his trained eye that may mean the difference between its being detected in time, or not.

With pollution constantly attacking our only natural protection, skin cancer is fast becoming more and more common. We must either learn to produce artificial means of blocking UV rays, or pay the price. Contrary to popular opinion, sun protection formulas don't keep you from tanning. You'll still brown up, but it'll be more slowly, and safely. So what's stopping you from using it?

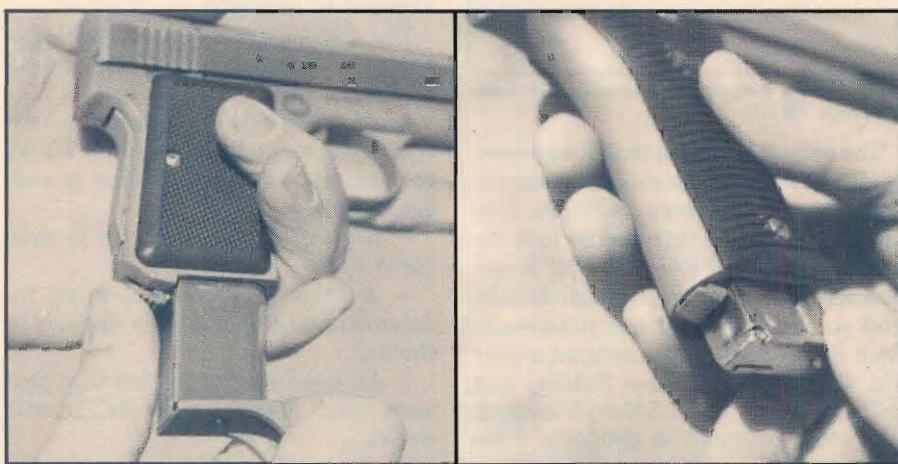
Take the time and effort, and you'll be able to return to that high mountain trout lake year after year... if not... well, it's your choice. •

# Automag II .22 Magnum, .380 Backup Pistols

(Continued from page 24)



The sights on the .380 pistol are crude but effective for short-range shooting.



Both the .380 Backup and Automag II have the magazine release catches on the butt of the frame.



The excellent Millett sights on the Automag II are a white outline adjustable rear and red ramp front.



The thumb-operated Automag II safety prevents the hammer from striking the firing pin and blocks the firing pin. It does not prevent the hammer from being dropped when the trigger is pulled. The pistol should never be carried with a round chambered.

fire) caliber pistol made.

Larry Grossman of AMT said he experimented for some time before com-

ing up with the unique gas-channeling system employed on the Automag II for a smooth, trouble-free action. The gas-channeling, or gas-assisted, action is achieved by a series of three bands in the chamber, each with six small holes in it. The bands are situated so that gas from the burning powder in the cartridge case is channeled into the holes in the bands. The gas system equalizes the pressure on the cartridge case keeping it from expanding so there is smooth extraction. AMT recommends against use of CCI .22 Magnum rimfire ammo in the Automag II. The flake powder used in this ammunition may not function well in the pistol.

The thumb-operated safety lever on the left side of the slide at the rear prevents the hammer from striking the firing pin and blocks the firing pin from striking the primer. It will not prevent the hammer from dropping if the trigger is pulled, however. There is also a half-cock position for the hammer.

Neither of these pistols should be carried with a round in the chamber as neither was designed for that purpose. The Automag II is available in 6-inch (our test gun), 4½-inch and 3¾-inch barrel length. The 3¾-inch barrel model has a smaller frame for the pistol. Grossman says the 6-inch model will provide a muzzle velocity of about 1,400 feet per second. Finish is matte stainless with grooved carbon fiber black grips. Sights are Millett adjustable white outline rear and red ramp front blade.

At the range we test fired the Automag II with Winchester Super X and Federal .22 Magnum ammo, and the .380 Backup with Winchester Silvertip hollow point and American Eagle full metal jacketed .380 ammo, as well as with some Mexican Aguila .380 full metal jacketed stuff.

The .380 Aguila ammunition was so low powered it would not cycle in the gun and we had to manually work the slide to eject the spent cartridge case and chamber a new round after each firing. The American factory ammunition was fine in the pistol and it functioned perfectly in both slow and rapid fire.

Shooting at paper targets 7 yards away we averaged 10- and 12-inch groups. The Silvertips, as expected,

provided the best accuracy. I even made hits on paper cups and bottles out to about 25 yards. If I were relying on this pistol I'd probably use only Silvertips in it.

We fired boxes of .22 Magnum ammunition in the Automag II with only one malfunction of any kind, and that was one failure to extract a spent casing. This occurred during a rapid fire sequence of shots well into test firing and I thought that perhaps the chamber was merely getting fouled. I used a knife blade to remove the casing, then continued firing, slowly at first and later after reloading I tried rapid fire again with no further trouble.

The Automag II would be good for home defense, personal defense and hunting. We found it to be powerful and very accurate out to distances of 30 or more yards. It is also very reliable. I still am not sure just what led to that failure to extract, but I don't consider it anything serious. You feel the power of the caliber in the recoil but it's nothing unmanageable. This is truly a unique and fun to shoot pistol. •

#### AMT .380 Backup, Automag II Pistols: Tech Specs

##### .380 Backup

Caliber	.....	.380 Auto
Action/operation	.....	semiauto/blowback
Weight w empty magazine	.....	17.5 ozs.
Lengths:		
Overall	.....	4 $\frac{1}{8}$ "
Barrel	.....	2 $\frac{5}{8}$ "
Height w magazine	.....	4"
Finish	.....	matte stainless
Magazine capacity	.....	5 rds.
Price, suggested	.....	\$243
Manufacturer	.....	AMT, Dept. ASG, 6226 Santos Diaz St., Irwindale, CA 91706; (818) 334-6629

##### Automag II

Caliber	.....	.22 WMR
Action/operation	.....	semiauto/gas-assisted blowback
Weight		
(6") w empty magazine	.....	32.5 ozs.
Lengths:		
Overall	.....	9 $\frac{1}{8}$ "
Barrel	.....	6"
	(4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " - 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ " also available)	
Height w magazine	.....	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Sights	.....	Millett adjustable white outline rear, red ramp blade front
Sight radius	.....	8"
Safeties	.....	firing pin block, hammer half cock
Finish	.....	matte stainless with grooved black fiber grips
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Natural Remedies:

# Medicinal Herbs

*Nature's pharmacy contains plants that heal and promote health in the human body...*



Be sure to properly identify herbs before using them. Some plants can be extremely toxic.

By Scott Stoddard

**F**OR thousands of years man has treated sickness and pain by using the healing properties of certain plants. One of the earliest texts on the subject

is the Ebers Papyrus, written about 1550 B.C. by ancient Egyptians. The papyrus contains many prescriptions and shows a high degree of medical knowledge.

Even earlier, the Chinese had a book of pharmacopoeia detailing the prescribing of drugs, their preparations,

and their uses. Known as the *Pen Ts'ao*, translated as *Essential Herbs*, this work is attributed to China's legendary God of Farming, Shen Nung. Shen is supposed to have lived 2,700 years before Christ.

The very first physicians were all herbalists. Hippocrates firmly believed



Photo by Scott Stoddard

# Medicinal Herbs



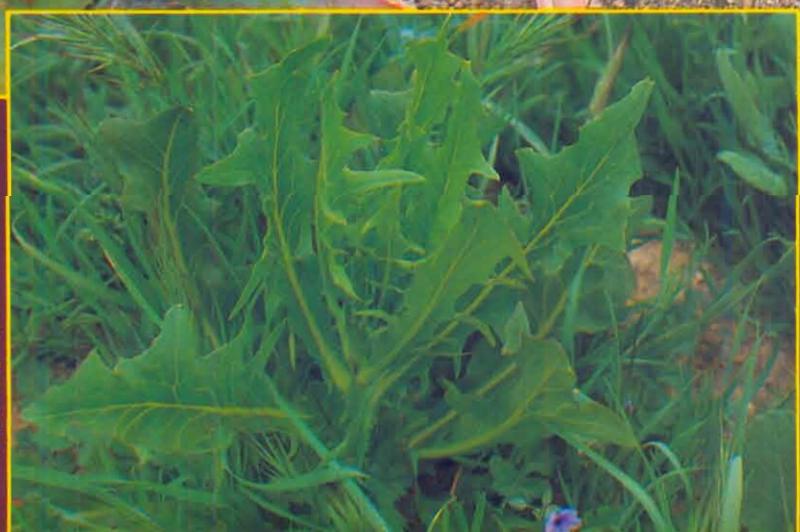
Aloe Vera soothes sun burned skin and is prescribed by physicians for nuclear and other radiation burns.

Dandelion leaves and roots contain lots of vitamin A and C. Leaves are great in salads and the root can be dried, roasted and ground for a coffee substitute.



Lodgepole pine pitch is useful in disinfecting open sores.

Use the bark and roots of willow in teas for relief of headaches and fevers.



that treatment of a specific complaint should be carried out only as part of the treatment of the whole man. He stressed the importance of diet as well as his habits and the environment in which he lived.

Plants and herbs are still important to the modern medical doctor. Scientists are worried that future anti-cancer drugs may be lost forever because the world's rain forests are being systematically slashed and burned by peasants and ranchers of third world countries. So far only one to five percent of the Amazon's 80,000 plant species have been studied.

Rain forests are like chemical factories. Many of today's modern drugs have come from plants: Penicillin is produced from mold; cortisone is derived from yams; Atropine, a drug for stomach ulcers, comes from the belladonna plant; the tranquilizer and high blood pressure drug reserpine from India's snakeroot; and codeine from the opium poppy of the East.

To the survivalist, modern medicines, when used wisely and with skill, will prove invaluable during those times when the services of a physician might not be available. Many doctors are willing to prescribe drugs for those building emergency medical kits, especially those leaving for remote areas or on long expeditions (see ASG Sept. 1988 article on wilderness medicine).

Herbal medicine, although usually not as potent as modern synthesized drugs, can still be employed to serve man. Herbs can be grown in the backyard garden and provide not only medicinal uses but improve your culinary arts. A survivalist in an outdoor setting should know and be able to identify a few basic plants that would be beneficial should injury or sickness occur in a wilderness situation. The following is an abbreviated list of plants and their uses. Be sure to buy a guidebook with good color photos to help in proper identification of wild herbs.

**Aloe Vera** — An easy plant to grow at home, many housewives keep aloe vera nearby the kitchen for the treatment of burns. The gel inside the succulent leaf provides a cooling, medicinal salve. Great for sunburned noses, cuts, and minor burns. Physicians prescribe aloe vera for nuclear and other radiation burns.

**Cattail** — Use the white starch roots of the cattail to make a salve for dressing burns. Pound the roots into a mush

and mix with animal fat. American Indians dug the creeping white roots during the winter for food and consumed them as a treatment for diarrhea, gonorrhea, and worms.

**Chamomile** — Grow this one in your garden and use as a tea for stomach upsets and indigestion. An infusion of chamomile is well-known as an herbal rinse for the hair. Can also be used as a mouthwash and for a soothing eyebath.

**Garlic** — When the bulbs are ground, the sulphur-containing amino acid alliin comes in contact with the enzyme allinase which converts to allicin, a potent antibacterial agent. The consumption of garlic has been shown to help protect against atherosclerosis. Makes a great insect and people repellent.

**Licorice** — Most so-called licorice candy is flavored with anise oil. 90 percent of the licorice grown commercially is used to flavor tobacco products. It is also used in throat lozenges. A tea made from licorice root will help as a cough remedy but avoid frequent use.

**Mullein** — The grey leaves of this tall plant can be smoked or used as incense to relieve lung congestion.

**Oak** — The astringent tannins in oak bark tea provide an effective treatment for sore throats, coughs, and colds. These tannins also dry and heal sores and rid wounds of excess mucous secretions.

**Peppermint** — Add peppermint leaves to fruit juices, fruit salads, and iced teas. Try a chopped leaf in a cup of hot chocolate and make hot peppermint tea for indigestion. It is supposed to improve the appetite.

**Pine** — The pitch of the lodgepole pine is useful for disinfecting and protecting open sores. Use the young shoots of the western white pine by boiling them and taking the tea to prevent coughs and help relieve upset stomachs.

**Rose Hips** — Use in teas, extracts, and purees for its high vitamin A and C content. Can be eaten raw also.

**Service Berry** — The boiled green inner bark of service berry is used for an eyewash.

**Stinging Nettle** — The root and leaves

of nettle can be used in teas for stopping diarrhea, but can cause constipation.

**Willow** — The barks and roots contain a bitter glucoside, salicin, a primal form of aspirin that was used to relieve headaches, fevers, arthritis and external swellings. Use either chewed or brewed as a tea.

Before actually brewing up a cup of herbal tea from plants you have foraged, make sure you have properly identified each plant. A list of seed catalogs is provided for the 1989 season. Many companies stock herb books that you will find useful for identifying and cultivating these aromatic and useful plants. ●

#### Seed catalogs listing herbs and their uses:

**Bountiful Gardens Ecology Action**, 5798 Ridgewood Road, Willits, CA 95490. Organically grown heirloom seed; a good variety of herbs, grains and vegetable seeds.

**Folklore Herb Company/Sanctuary Seeds**, 2388 West 4th Ave., Vancouver, B.C., V6K 1P1, Canada. Folklore sells bulk spices and botanical herbs, also teas, oils, food items, and books. Also sells herb seed and nonhybrid vegetable seed.

**J.L. Hudson, Seedman**, P.O. Box 1058, Redwood City, CA 94064. Rare seed from all over the world. The "encyclopedia" of seed catalogs — lots of information. Catalog \$1.

**Johnny's Selected Seeds**, Foss Hill Road, Albion, ME 04910 Vegetable seed selected for a cool 145-day average frost-free season. Good germination and growing directions. Three pages of herbs. Seed can be bought in quantities up to 25 lbs.

**Native Seeds/SEARCH**, 2509 N. Campbell Ave. #325, Tucson, AZ 85719. Seeds once used by the native Indian tribes of the south west. Try Hopi Red Dye Amaranth, Santo Domingo Blue Corn, Desert Chia, a protein and oil rich herb and Warihio Conivari, used by the Mayo Indians as an eye remedy and to control diarrhea. A good assortment of beans, chiles, gourds, and corn.

**Nichols Garden Nursery**, 1190 North Pacific Hwy, Albany, Oregon 97321. A very large assortment of herbs and vegetable seeds. Also available are dried whole leaf herbs for cooking, herb teas, essential oils, perfume oils and potpourri blends of dried herbs.

**Park Seed Co.**, Cokesbury Road, Greenwood, SC 29647. A full color catalog devoted entirely to flowers and vegetables. Two pages include a good assortment of herbs. Ginseng (*Panax quinquefolium*) is available.

Springfield Armory:

# 1911-A1 9mm Pistol

*The venerable 1911-A1 design and Springfield quality in 9mm caliber...*



**By Jim Benson**

**I**F you are up on the gun scene, you know that Springfield Armory 1911-A1 pistols are considered among the best on the market.

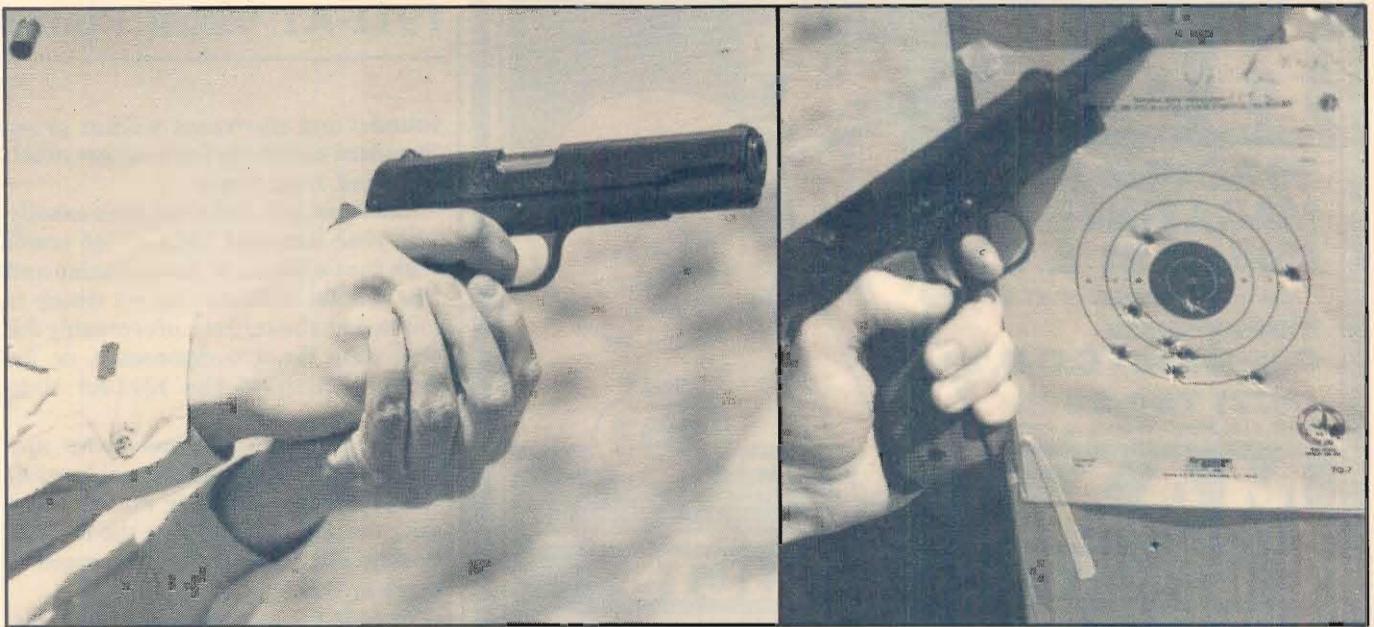
Springfield's high quality built dupli-

cates of the tremendously popular military 1911-A1 .45 pistols with their forged steel parts, including barrel, frame and slide, are known for their strength and durability and the 1911-A1 design is world renowned for reliability and firepower in a handgun.

Springfield also offers these pistols

in .38 Super (by special order) and 9 mm Luger (NATO) calibers. We've had the opportunity to try out the 1911-A1 9mm Springfield gun and find it to be another super Springfield product.

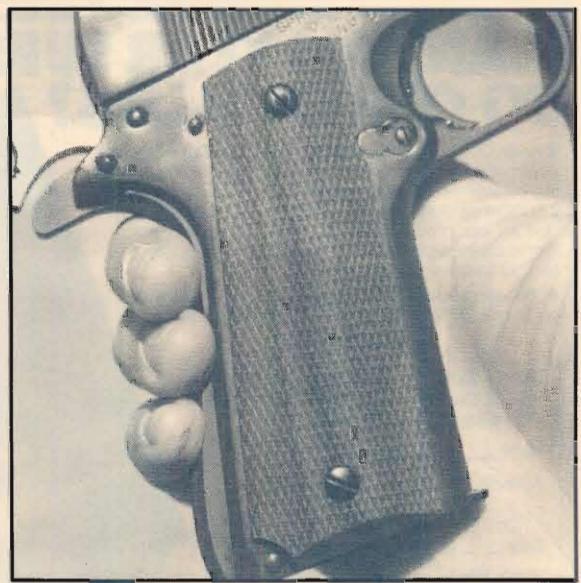
Our blued test gun (parkerized finish also available) came with a 9-round magazine (earlier magazines hold 8



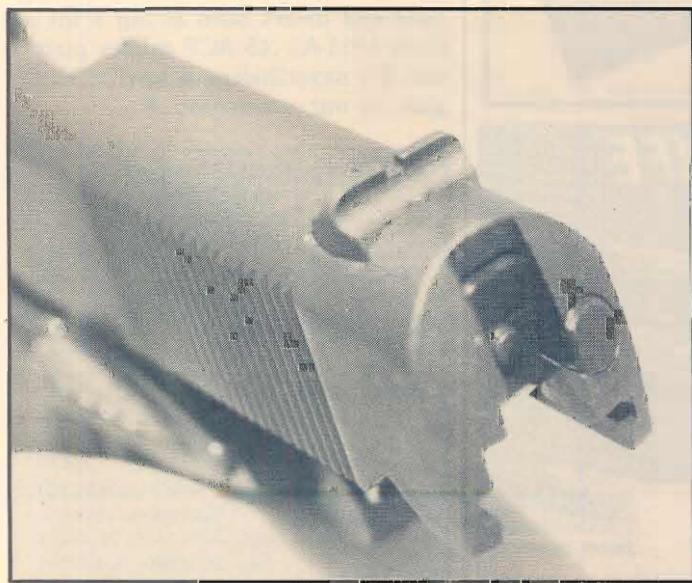
The Springfield 1911-A1 9mm pistol is pleasant to shoot, with light recoil. Accuracy was good.



The barrel is swelled at the muzzle.



Grips on the test gun are checkered walnut.



Standard model sights are fixed.



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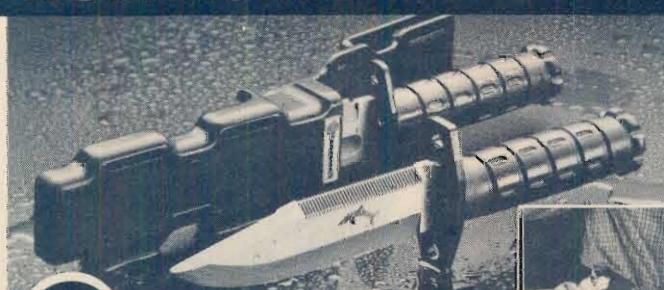
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## 1911-A1 9mm Pistol

rounds) and checkered walnut grips. Standard sights are fixed square notch rear and front blade.

The 9 mm gun looks and feels exactly like your standard 1911-A1 .45 pistol with the exception of the magazine and the smaller diameter barrel which is swelled at the muzzle, presumably for threading for a compensator, or for proper fitting to the 1911-A1 slide parts.

This gun will feed just about any factory 9 mm NATO ammunition without problems, including hollow point ammunition, we're told by the folks at Springfield. Our test firing seemed to confirm this.

We took the gun to a public shooting area with Winchester Silvertip and PMC jacketed hollow point ammunition, along with American Eagle and PMC full metal jacketed ammo — all with 115-grain bullets.

In firing close to 100 rounds through the pistol there were no jams or other malfunctions, and it shoots very accurately. We fired at targets 7 yards away using one-hand and two-hand holds in slow aimed and rapid aimed fire and we were quite pleased with the accuracy we obtained. This gun, we found, hits where you aim it, and right out of the box.

We also had good results firing at bottles and cans 25 to 50 yards away. Recoil and muzzle rise are moderate and shooting this pistol is easy and comfortable.

This is the only 1911-A1 we know of chambered for the 9 mm cartridge. It was introduced in 1986 by Springfield and hasn't been as big a hit as their 1911-A1 .45 ACP caliber pistols but it's nevertheless a terrific handgun, in our estimation. •

### Springfield 1911-A1 9 mm Pistol: Tech Specs

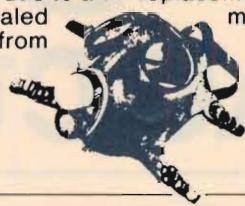
Caliber	9 mm NATO
Weight w/o magazine	37.5 ozs.
Lengths:	
Overall	8.59"
Barrel	5.04"
Height	5.5"
Sight radius	6.4"
Trigger pull	5-6.5 lbs.
Sights	fixed notch rear, blade front
Price, suggested	\$441 (\$421 parkerized)
Distributor	Springfield Armory, Dept. ASG, 420 W. Main St., Geneseo, IL 61254; (309) 944-5631

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M650SS Rifle:

# Boresighting For Accuracy

*How to zero-in a rifle the precision way  
and get on target with your first shot...*

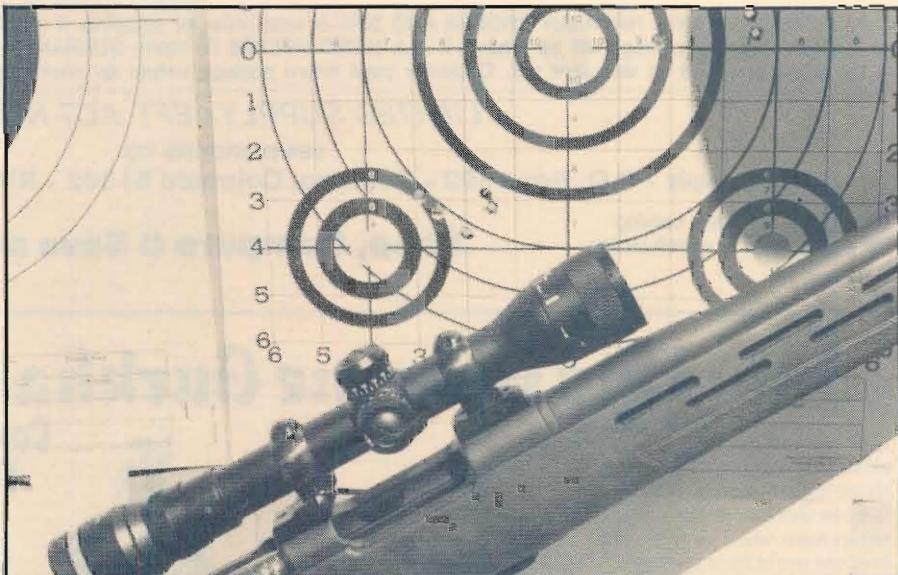
By Bud Lang

LAST month staff members presented a report on the Krico M650SS Sniper/Match rifle offered by Beeman Precision Firearms, but for a variety of reasons were unable to test fire the piece for accuracy before deadline time.

I was then asked to test fire the rifle as part of this article I was doing on boresighting.

The Krico is a match rifle, so I visited the range with a box of Federal Match ammo, (load # 308M) which carries 168-grain Sierra Boat-tail HP bullets. This round offers a muzzle velocity of around 2,600 fps. I also brought along a pre'64 Winchester Model 70 in .243 Win caliber, which was outfitted with a Redfield scope. Just wanted to back up my test results.

In the event you aren't familiar with what boresighting is all about, or how collimators work, I'll take a moment to explain. Boresighting refers to an operation where one sets a bolt action rifle (no semiautos) up in a bench fixture so it won't move. After removing the rifle bolt, the person visually sights through the bore, centering a target. Next the scope is adjusted to where it is aligned with the target. What you have achieved here is visual alignment of both scope and bore axes on a common target. When test fired, the rifle should be able to put that first shot on paper. This is a very crude method however, as boresighting in this manner isn't that accurate, and



After boresighting, we fired a five-shot group with our Beeman/Krico, that measured 1½ inches, center-to-center, typical of the accuracy of this rifle.



Collimators are attached to muzzles via a small bore spud that slides into the barrel bore.

you still may end up shooting a half-dozen rounds before the rifle is sighted in.

Collimators, commonly called boresighters, do a much more accurate job of getting you on target. These can be used with any scoped rifle, including semiautos. After properly using a collimator, the first round you fire will usually be within a few inches of target dead center.

Here's how to use a collimator. Optical boresighters come with steel spuds, tiny shafts that slide into the rifle bore, positioning the collimator in front of the barrel, somewhat like a tiny scope. Carefully slide the collimator spud into the muzzle then adjust the scope so its crosshair (reticle) is superimposed over the collimator crosshair. What you have just done is align the scope's optical axis with the bore axis so they intersect at 100 yards. When you view an object with your two eyes, the same thing occurs: your two eyes are optically aligned on the same target. After adjusting the scope in this manner, you remove the collimator and fire your first round.

I installed a Sweany Site-A-Line Optical Bore-sighter first on the Model 70 and viewed through the rifle's scope. This unit is offered with an "X," circle, or grid reticle. I prefer the "X." Here's the picture I got. The collimator reticle (indicating the bore axis) was high and to the right of the scope reticle. This tells me my shot would be high and to the right.

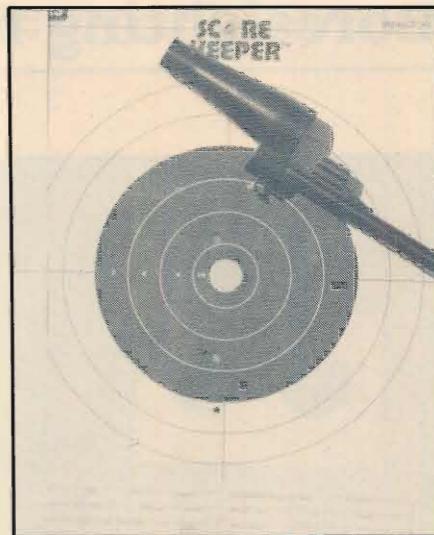
With the collimator removed, I fired a couple of rounds to compare bullet placement with what I perceived it would be. Sure as heck, the shots were high and to the right, off the paper.

I reinstalled the collimator, then adjusted the scope so its reticle was superimposed exactly over the collimator reticle. Then I removed the unit and fired one round. On the paper in one shot, it was at 6 o'clock in the six ring. I elevated the scope reticle, fired again. Still at 6 o'clock, in the eight ring. Another elevation adjustment, 6 o'clock in the nine, just above the 10 ring. Changing targets, I put three shots into a  $1\frac{1}{8}$ -inch group at 12 o'clock in the nine ring, just where I want it as it will allow me to hold dead on anywhere between 100 and 200 yards.

Now to the Beeman/Krico match gun. As installed, the scope was way out of adjustment, the key reason we had trouble getting it on the paper during our previous outing. I fired two

rounds to check it out, and it hit six FEET high and one foot to the left at 135 yards. I installed the Sweany Site-A-Line and found the bore (illustrated in diagram A) axis about three-quarter inch high and a quarter-inch to the left of the scope axis (reticle). I then adjusted the scope until the reticles were superimposed as illustrated.

Removing the collimator, I fired ONE round. It printed  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches to the right of the "X" ring, at 3 o'clock, ON the paper. A second shot printed one-quarter inch away. I cranked in some left windage. A five-shot group, measuring  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch, printed  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches to the right, still at 3 o'clock. I cranked in a little more windage, then fiddled with the elevation, while zeroing the rifle. I fired three more three-shot groups in the process, all measuring one-inch center-to-center.



This view shows the three shots taken with the Model 70 Winchester after collimating as we "walked" the bullets into the black. The first shot (lower one) was on target.

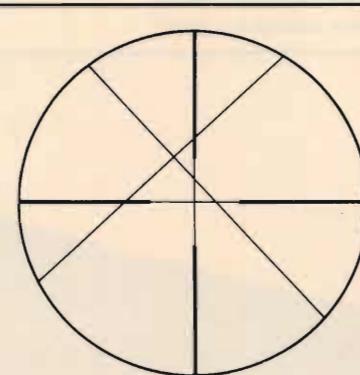
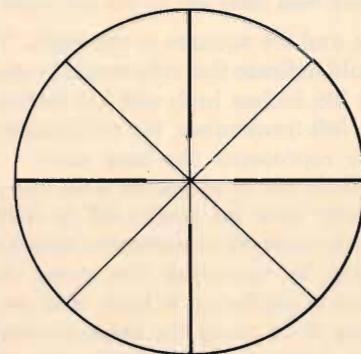


Diagram A



To the left is the "picture" we witnessed when the Sweany Site-A-Line collimator was installed on the Beeman/Krico rifle. This indicated the rifle bore was way high and to the left of the scope axis. To the right is the picture we got when the reticles were aligned. After critical adjustments, we ended up with the Sweany "X" a little bit high, as we wanted the gun to shoot high.

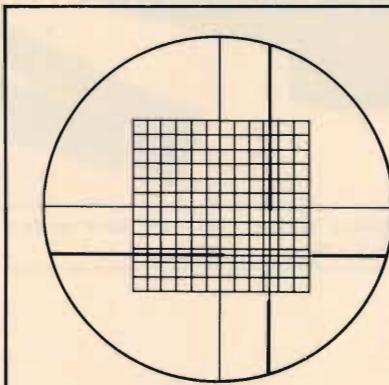
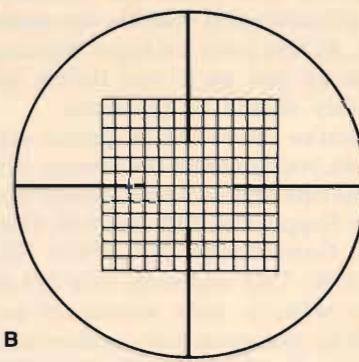


Diagram C



The "picture" at left shows how the collimator grid would be off were a rifle bore axis to the left and high as compared to the scope axis. By aligning the reticles as shown at right, we got the first shot on the paper.

You'll note, while both rifles (with newly installed scopes) wouldn't put those first shots on the paper, after aligning the scopes with the collimator, one shot put the slug just inches from dead center.

If you and your friends own a number of rifles with scopes, and do a lot of shooting or swapping scopes/rifles,

then a collimator might be what you need if you want to save time and ammo.

We have also illustrated a grid reticle, as used in Redfield, Bushnell and Sweany collimators. The squares in these reticles are the equivalent of one-inch at 100 yards. As seen in diagram B, the scope reticle is  $3\frac{1}{2}$  squares

# Boresighting For Accuracy



Howard Reed poses with the rifle and targets after a successful boresighting session.

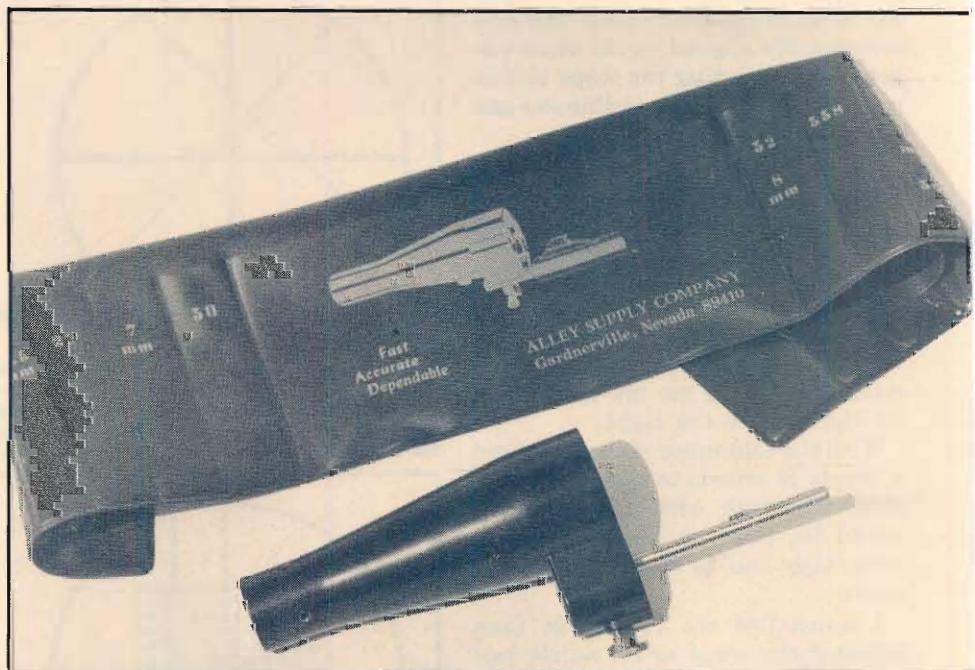


Here's the three-shot group we achieved with the Model 70 after boresighting it.

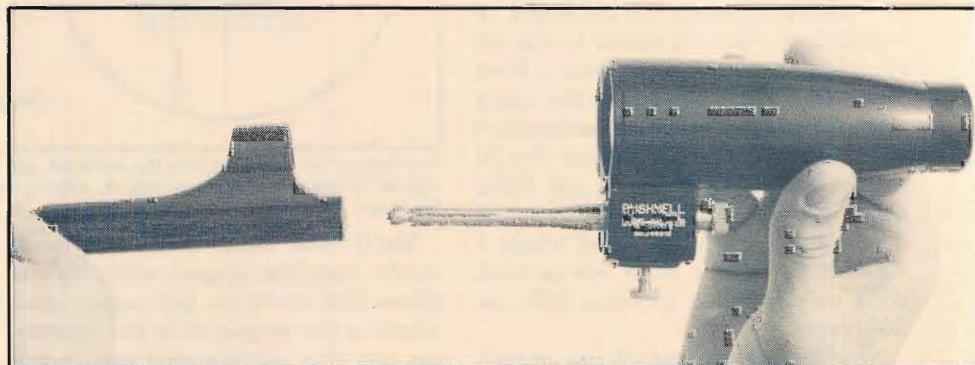
low, and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  squares to the right. This would indicate this rifle would be shooting  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches high and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches to the left (remember, the collimator reticle represents the bore axis).

While the grid reticle does tell you exactly how far you're off in inches, it only matters in instances where you might be removing the scope, with plans of replacing it later, and you're going to be using the same ammo. At that point you would slip the collimator on and adjust the reticles to where they were before. If we had sighted the Kraco in previously so it would hit one-inch high at 100 yards, we would later adjust the reticles so the collimator grid would be one square high. At this point we know the scope is set up just as it was before, and accuracy should be the same.

If you're interested in optical collimators, you can order the Sweany Site-A-Line (the first unit ever offered) from Alley Supply Co., P.O. Box 848, Dept. ASG, Gardnerville, NV 89410 (702) 782-3800. This unit costs only \$74.00. Alley offers a wide variety of bore spuds for just about every caliber available, at only \$7.50 each. Redfield, 5800 East Jewell Avenue, Dept. ASG, Denver, CO 80224 offers boresighters through their dealers. Their collimator lists at \$128.95 each, while six bore spuds (available in .22, .24, .25, .27, .28 and .30 calibers) go for \$13.95 each. The entire set (collimator and six spuds) lists at \$194.95. Finally, we have the Bushnell boresighter (Bushnell, 300 North Lone Hill Avenue, Dept. ASG, San Dimas, CA 91773) which comes with three adjustable spuds (.22 to .270



The Sweany collimator comes with barrel spuds of specific diameters to reduce chances of error. Unit is easy to use.



The barrel spuds attach to the collimator as shown. They slip into the muzzle end. Bushnell type is adjustable so it will fit a variety of bore diameters.

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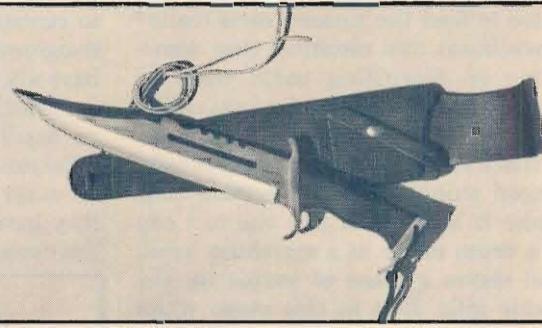
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# Wild Mushrooms: If You Dare

(Continued from page 9)

hood days is as safe a place as any for the beginning mushroom hunter to start, as there are no similar poisonous look-alikes. The shaggy mane belongs to a group of mushrooms called the "inky caps" because of their nasty habit of auto-digestion, a process also known as dissolution. In other words, they eat themselves out of house and home after maturing, transforming into a blob of tar-like goo as they dissolve to feed the unseen roots (called mycellium). It's amazing that something so disgusting could taste so delicious, although it is far from edible by the time it reaches the inky stage.

When young, it is white with brown-tinted shingles on the outside that make it look much like the tall cap of a drum major in a marching band, and shows a trace of purple on the inside gills. It is at this stage when shaggy mane is at its best. Prepare them by slicing thinly and sauteeing in butter. Like fine caviar, they can be enjoyed by themselves. Because of the shaggy mane's self-destructive nature it cannot be picked and stored in the refrigerator to be eaten later, but must be cooked at once to neutralize the enzyme that causes its decay.

There are a number of species in the "inky cap" group, most of which are edible; a word of caution though. The combination of some species of this mushroom with alcohol can cause intestinal distress and severe vomiting, as can alcohol with other varieties of mushrooms in some people, even the store-bought kinds. This does not justify classifying the shaggy mane as poisonous, however, for it would be just as correct to say that alcohol is the poison. The mushroom by itself is far better for your health than the alcohol. Just don't mix the two.

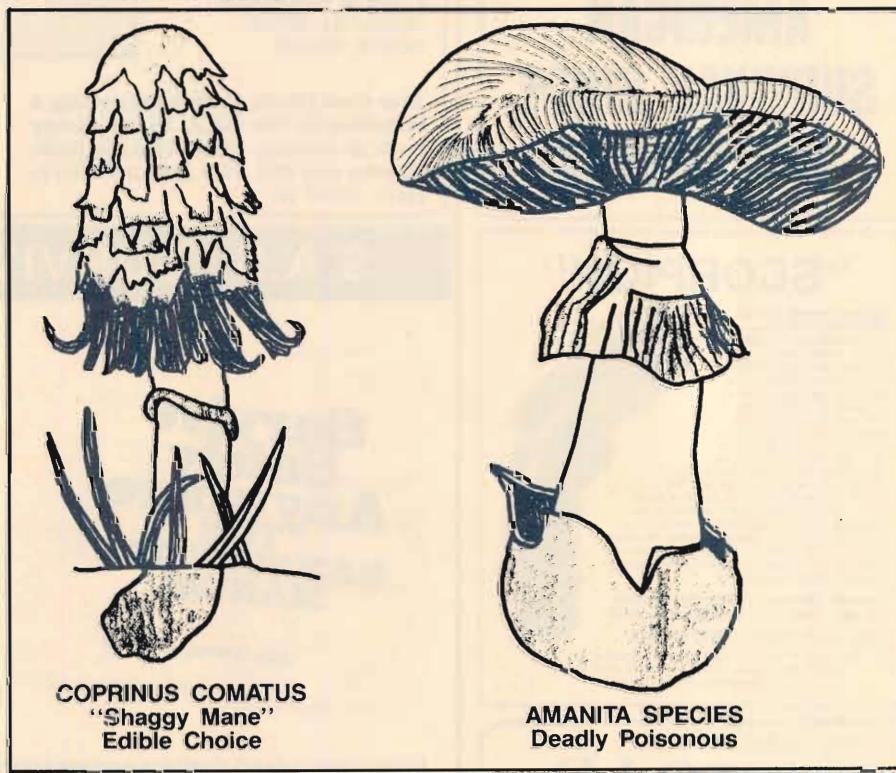
Should I live to be 120 years old I'll never fully comprehend people's food prejudices. While living down south, my landlord's wife called to tell me she had seen lots "... of those brown mushrooms" in the park while walking the dog, and wanted to know if I would like to have them. If so she'd pick them for me. I had a meeting to attend, so I told her yes, and by the time I returned I found a huge bag of "sticky bun boletes" (*Boletus granulatus*) propped up against my door. I promised to cook these into

something really special and asked her if she'd like some, but the offer was declined. "I believe if you say they're edible," she said, "but I'd be afraid to try them." Immediately afterwards, she showed me a handful of common "pink bottom meadow mushrooms" (*Agaricus campestris*) she had found near the boletes, and went on to tell me how she really enjoys those and "the other kind that's white underneath." I tried to conceal my amazement. The most dangerous mushrooms in the world have white gills (the "destroying angel" included), whereas the boletes harbor no deadly look-alikes.

Boletes are easily distinguished from all other mushrooms by the fact that they have pores (spore tubes) beneath their caps, rather than gills. No bolete

of the most poisonous types of mushrooms to kill.

As delicious as boletes taste, they are not my favorite simply because of the effort involved in preparing them. But for the wild mushroom fanatic, this shouldn't be too much of a deterrent. The sticky skin that covers the cap should be removed from the older specimens, as should the spongy layer of tubes. If your freshly picked mushrooms need cleaning, do not rinse them off until after they are prepared as explained, as they will become incredibly slimy. The best way to avoid getting them dirty in the first place, is to cut them off just above ground level, instead of pulling them out with the dirt.



This drawing shows both a very edible mushroom and a very poisonous one. A good illustration to point out the fact that edibility and good looks have nothing in common.

is deadly, although there are a species or two that can cause stomach upset or are unpalatable. It's best to take a nibble from each one collected just to be certain. Boletes are mildly flavored and have an excellent color and texture, reminding me of a fluffy egg omelette. An inedible species of bolete is peppery or bitter. I should mention that this test for edibility should be applied only to the bolete family of fungi. It takes less than a tablespoon

**Puffballs** — Besides boletes, puffballs are the next safest introduction to the sport of mushroom hunting. White-fleshed puffballs (*Lycoperdon* and *Calvatia* species) have no poisonous family members, and puffballs are recognizable and easily the most common of our mushrooms after a spring shower. They can almost always be found then in flat grassy areas (golf courses and parks are great hunting grounds) often where the soil looks poorer—a couple

days following these showers. Their main identifying feature is the lack of a stem, and the fruiting body is usually round or pear-shaped. Before eating any puffball it should always be sliced in half to make certain that what you got is not another type of mushroom in the "button stage." A puffball has no gills or pores like other mushrooms, but instead is composed of a solid spongy mass (called "gleba") clear through.

As easy to find as puffballs, though not so easily distinguishable is the fairy ring mushroom (*Marasmius oreades*) which forms those familiar fairy rings in lawns. *Marasmius* is perhaps the most neglected edible mushroom I know, and perhaps the most delicious. *Marasmius* seems to do best in well-watered lawns, and being prone to sprouting up in fairy rings, it appears in abundance. One of its most amazing features (besides the taste) is that *Marasmius* doesn't decay so easily as other mushrooms. Should the mushroom pop up after a summer shower one cool grey morning, then be subjected to the blazing afternoon sun, *Marasmius* will simply dehydrate itself, waiting to turn plump and fresh with the next fall of rain.

In appearance, *Marasmius* is light tan in hue, with a darker-colored nipple in its center. When young the cap is convex, but as it matures it turns concave and develops a scalloped edge. The gills are fairly wide and spaced a ways apart. When picking, take only the cap, and discard the fibery stem, which unless really young, is too tough for even a forager to chew.

There are many other edible species as well, that are both delicious and easy to identify. The above were only a sample. For more information check out a good guidebook or join a local mushroom hunting club.

For the survivalist, the difference between knowing how to safely forage wild mushrooms and not knowing how is the difference between surviving and surviving in style. ●

#### For Further Reading

**Mushrooms of North America** by Orson K. Miller Jr. (E.P. Dutton, 1979).

**The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Mushrooms** by Gary H. Lincoff (Alfred A. Knopf, 1981).

**Joe's Book of Mushroom Cookery** by Jack Czarnecki (Atheneum Press, 1986).

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(Continued from page 17)

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Bob Wieland was a football quarterback in high school and was looking forward to a career in professional sports when he was drafted into the U.S. Army and sent to Vietnam as a combat medic. His unit ran into a mine field while on patrol in a place known as The Hobo Woods in Vietnam. While rushing to the aid of fallen comrade he stepped on an 82 mm mortar shell rigged as a mine which blew his legs off. Taken to a military medical facility after the incident, he was at first pronounced dead on arrival. While recovering he developed malaria and nearly died from that illness. Yet his faith in God pulled him through and he knew his life had been saved for a purpose — to show how anyone can excel regardless of circumstances. He went on to become a champion weight lifter and walked across the United States — a three-year effort — to raise money for the world's poor and hungry. He became an actor starring in a popular television series. He continues to train for the Ironman Triathlon in Hawaii and various marathons. His message in talks he gives at schools, churches, prisons and social organizations is simple: Faith in the Lord will always overcome impossibilities. This is a dramatic true story of how one person overcame the odds to be a success in life. It's inspiring to young and old alike. ●



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**T**HIS IS A CONFIDENTIAL listing of survivalists who wish to become known to others of like mind. *American Survival Guide* will accept properly coded mail and forward it to the coded addresses without charge. *American Survival Guide* accepts no responsibility for the contents or results of these confidential communications. Mass mailings are not permitted.

ASG 0601

**Austin, Texas.** Family oriented survival/defense group is seeking new members in the Central Texas area. Families and singles are welcomed. Only moral, serious minded survivalists are desired. No druggies, gays, or radicals need apply.

ASG 0602

**Riviera, Arizona.** I and several others are interested in forming a survival group. We want to buy several acres of desert land for our training needs. Off-road driving, target practice, desert survival, etc. We need donations, and more members to make our dreams a reality. No Rambo's, racists or druggies please.

ASG 0603

**Colchester, Connecticut.** I'm a 15-year-old male who would like to correspond with others about wilderness and nuclear survival, medicine and weapons. I am interested in starting a survivalist group in the area if I can get enough replies. Please state any field you may specialize in. People need not worry about age or sex. No Rambo's, racists, gays or druggies please.

ASG 0604

**Lennox, California.** Young WM 28 years old survivalist, certified welder, first aid and CPR. Knowledge of weapons, personal security and defense. Wishing to correspond with other like minded individuals or groups for ideas and experience. Can possibly relocate. No commies, religious freaks, or druggies.

ASG 0605

**Madisonville, Kentucky.** Attention all experienced survivalists. My survivalist organization, made mostly of 15—19 year olds is looking for individuals who may train us in firearms, first aid, S.F. techniques, NBC and weapons. Also we are looking to recruit teens in Tenn., Mo., Ill., Ind., Ohio, W. VA., and Va. If you are interested please send us a photo (optional) and a short letter about yourself and your areas of interests. Males and females are welcome. No communists, druggies, or racists need apply. All others will be answered.

ASG 0606

**New York, New York.** Ex-army (Nam Vet), strict disciplinarian, with an almost insatiable appetite towards life and all it has to offer, is presently in the midst of trying to establish a group in this area comprised solely of former military personnel (past or present). All others will be considered, depending on background, and of course, utilization within the group.

ASG 0607

**Hartford, Connecticut.** Serious survivalist, 12 year military veteran, forming a paramilitary survival group.

ASG 0608

**Vinita, Oklahoma.** 31 year-old male looking to join a survival group or share information with people in the area. Enjoy hunting, fishing and shooting. Seven years Navy training, including search and rescue swimmer and dive license. Still realistic, not Rambo.

ASG 0609

**Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.** I am a 22 year-old straight male looking for "well organized" survivalist group, possibly to join. Have own gear (complete). I also spend lots of time in S.E. Tenn. and N.E. Alabama. I'm certified CPR. Can drive anything on wheels. Time available for retreats, etc.

ASG 0610

**Idaho Falls, Idaho.** Newly established group looking for new members, all ages, individuals, couples. No prejudices, druggies, alcoholics or racists. Experience not necessary but helpful. Also wish to make contact with other groups.

ASG 0611

**Long Island, New York.** We would like to form a Christian survivalist group. Any information would be appreciated. Interested parties please contact us. No communists, gays, lesbians, addicts, atheists, or alcoholics. May also consider joining other group. Relocation and forming a survival retreat and shelter with self-contained facilities and self-reliance for members a high priority. Send resume and letter.

ASG 0612

**Beechmont, Kentucky.** Serious survivalist/defense group forming in eastern Kentucky. We seek correspondence with other groups or individuals interested in survival. Loyal and lawful people will be considered regardless of race, religion, age, sex, handicap.

ASG 0613

**Clearfield County, Pennsylvania.** Low-profile survivalist experienced with small unit tactics, firearms, outdoors, looking for help with radiation equipment, shelter design and raising small farm animals.

ASG 0614

**Glendale Arizona.** Dedicated family man wishes contact with realistic survival group or others in area interested in forming our own. Have extensive background in mechanics, vocational education and weapons. If you feel as I do that knowledge, organization and strength of the family unit is the answer, please reply. No communists, liberals, anti-Americans or gun store Rambo's.

ASG 0615

**Kinston, North Carolina.** Lees Survival School is looking for members to form a survivalist group in the Kinston N.C. area. Serious inquiries only, we will not accept racists, communists, gays, radicals or anyone that may be against our country or government. We believe in the American way of life and our freedom. If you feel you meet our standards contact us today for more information.

ASG 0616

**Winchester, Virginia.** Wilderness survival group is opening its membership to new members. We are looking to grow. We train and are open to new ideas. Meetings and outings every month. Male or female.

ASG 0617

**Goldendale, Washington.** Novice survivalist wishes to correspond with other survivalist. Object: to exchange info, exchange ideas, and make new friends of like mind. No racists, gays, or extremists.

ASG 0618

**Depew, New York.** Survivalist seeking survivalists ages 15-50 to start a survival group on 87 acres of land in western New York. Serious replies only. No racists, crazies, or gays. All sexes, races, religions, couples or single parents welcome.

ASG 0619

**Richmond, California.** 30 year-old male interested in corresponding/forming a group for survival. Interested in martial arts, firearms, survival, fitness, training. All inquiries answered.

ASG 0620

**Upstate New York.** Serious survivalist in Adirondack region wishes to hear from others of like mind. I wish to exchange information or possibly form a group. Females, families and out of state individuals welcome. I am 26 years old, ex-military and very proud of this great country.

ASG 0621

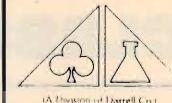
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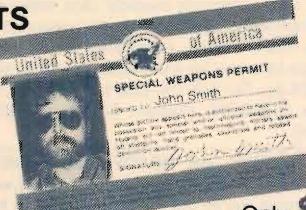
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# MAIL CALL.

## Gun Ownership & Bans

For the last 50 years Americans have been surrendering and compromising their freedoms on one pretext or another. The usual argument is that if we give up a few of our rights we will be safe, secure and prosperous. When that doesn't work (and it never does) we are asked to give up just a few more. Now we have damn few left. The urge to accept waiting periods and registration of firearms is motivated by the desire to "get the bastards off our backs." But it never works out that way, as the gun owners of Illinois will tell you. Firearm registration has so rarely been useful in solving crimes that the only obvious motive is to get a list for eventual confiscation. The controllers who are trying to regulate us into "stability" and "order" have now revealed themselves and are openly calling for confiscation of individual weapons and "don't bother me about your precious rights." Maybe you can live with registration and licensing. Maybe you can live with ignorance, fear and doubt. Maybe you can live by compromising with your destroyers. I can't and I won't.

Ralph D. DeCamp  
Amsterdam, New York

You're obviously commenting on my poor choice of words in my April 1989 "To The Point" column. I agree with you entirely about gun registration and I am adamantly against it. However, I'm still willing to compromise on waiting periods and background checks for dealer (not private) gun purchases — Jim Benson.

While I am sure that we agree on most points about private firearms ownership. I will try to change your opinion on one point. We do not have gun registration "for the most part," ("To The Point" April 1989) and it is one of the most dangerous things we can have. The safety valves in the present system are that private sales are not recorded, records kept by individual gun dealers are not computerized, and if an individual were required to give up his gun by some future law, he could simply say, "I sold it." Gun registration is a necessary step to gun confiscation. At this moment, all semi-auto rifle and semiauto and pump shotguns are either being destroyed or ex-

ported from Great Britain. Gun owners there had no choice because they were all registered.

Dean S. Weingarten  
Ancon, Panama

We agree on the gun registration point as well. See "To The Point" in this issue for clarification — Jim Benson.

The anti-gunners have shown their true colors again. For years they've said: "We should eliminate handguns (not rifles) from America because they are not military weapons." According to them the Second Amendment only allows weapons for a "Militia," and "People" are not the Militia. Well they now want to eliminate "Assault" rifles as they are military weapons and only the military should have them. You pro-gunners better wake up. These people will do anything to violate your gun rights. Join a pro-gun organization and let your voice be heard. Write, or call your representatives in government and tell them how you feel.

William R. Salvesen  
Brooklyn, New York

It is the criminal justice system which should be blamed for the Stockton, California, schoolyard massacre. Patrick Purdy had been described in his parole report as "a danger to himself and others," yet the system simply released him repeatedly, leaving him with no permanent felony record and thus making the strict firearms laws useless and unenforceable against him. Instead of focusing on this travesty of justice, however, the media and the lawmakers have chosen to focus on the instrument which Purdy used in his crime—the firearm. Anti-gun activists claim that paramilitary firearms have "no sporting use." Not only is this a false claim, it also carries with it the implicit premise that "sporting use" is the only legitimate reason for civilian firearms ownership. New laws banning certain types of firearms will have no effect upon criminals. They ignore the law. Only the law-abiding citizen is penalized here and this approach is unjust and unwarranted.

Bradley J. Foster  
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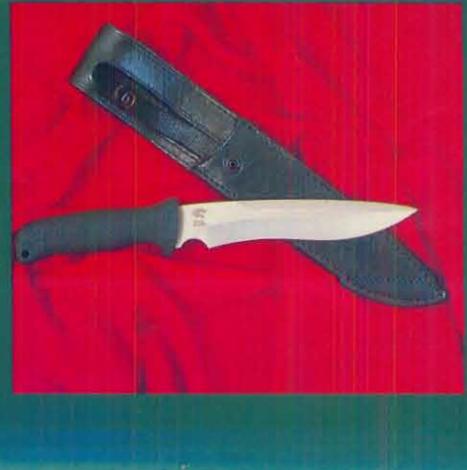
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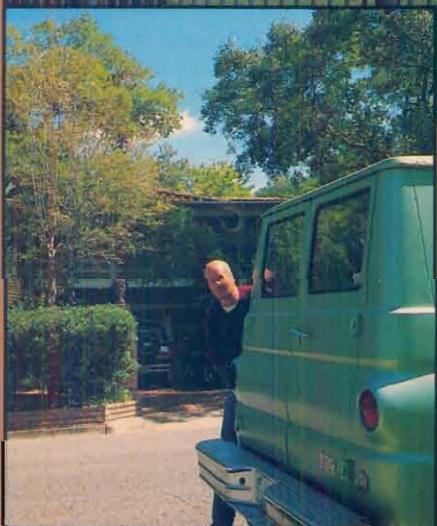
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By Karl D. Anderson



The author has worked as a security specialist for more than 15 years and has worked in domestic, foreign, private and commercial capacities. He received his initial training in the U.S. Air Force and while serving overseas he completed advanced training with Special Forces and the elite German GSG-9 hostage rescue unit — The editors.

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The news media, in spite of their ability to slant a view or sensationalize with hype at times, has done a decent job of informing us of those who believe and live by the principle that crime does pay!

Consequently, you have a choice to make: you protect what is yours or you don't. Perhaps you have already made this decision and have taken the appro-

priate steps to lessen the chances of you becoming another victim. On the other hand maybe you haven't and really believe that your home will never become the main course for a thief's appetite. Guess again! If your home has yet to be burglarized, you are only lucky, and good fortune is never eternal in the real world.

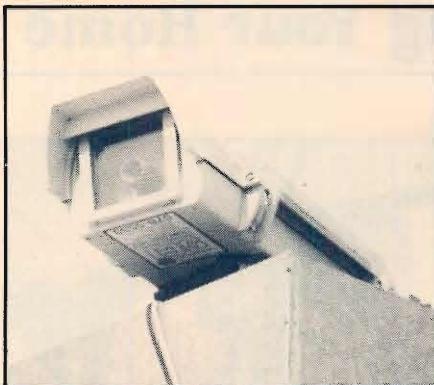
Having been employed as an executive security specialist off and on for the past 15 years, I have seen a lot of need for protection in and outside of the home, and all too often spoken with those victims who either had none or far less than what they should have. It is my hope that you gain some valuable insight from their mistakes and opt to do something about it.

I classify valuables into two basic categories: those that are replaceable and those that are not. The first of these would encompass just about anything that you or your family members have purchased, such as stereo equipment, cameras, VCRs, guns, television, and other appliances. Currency is also in this group.

With jewelry we might begin our transition into the second group, that being those items which have sentimental value as well as family heirlooms. Your great grandfather's gold pocket watch is *not* replaceable. Nor are the lives of your family members, or your own for that matter. But the ultimate extent to which you go in protecting what you have is ultimately up to you and will be based upon what you decide is worth the risk and what is not.

Do you have neighbors on two or three sides of your property? Do you reside on a lot or spacious estate? How is the crime rate in your area? Pay close attention to the arrest section of your local paper for a reasonable idea.

Is your home constructed of wood, brick, stucco or stone? Would an intruder be able to gain entry into your home through the garage? Is there an abundance of cover outside and around your home, such as bushes, shrubbery, and trees? Could it be assumed that a good many of your valuables might be related to your profession? Or perhaps your income level? While your average burglar selects his targets at random, he is also an opportunist, and will always choose a more attractive and potentially prosperous one over another. The pros do a lot of research and may case your home for weeks or even months. When they hit, chances are they know you are at work and that you won't be dropping in for lunch.



Closed-circuit surveillance cameras are a good option, but they must be monitored by someone to be effective.

They know the kids are in school, or that the wife is working as well. Perhaps they got a lead on exactly what you have in your home (more on this later). The bottom line is this: given the chances that a real pro is going to research you to make his job easier, you would be wise to research what you can do to make his experience a fullblown blunder!

The first and foremost thing that everyone should have is a renter's or homeowner's insurance policy against theft. Most companies offer two types, one for value and the other for replacement cost. Because of inflation and depreciation, I recommend the latter by all means. The average such policy runs around \$300 for \$20,000 of coverage (per year) with an additional \$100 per \$10,000 of coverage. To make it even easier on the individual, companies do have payment or installment plans. Such a policy may seem like a burden on modest budgets until you consider the cost of replacing all that is stolen. One frequently asked question by these insurance agents is "What is your dwelling constructed of?" Those with the lowest premiums are made of brick or stone, which should tell you something in itself. You should naturally have a list of all valuable items and some means of identifying them. Engraving is the best I know of. Taking photos of your things will not hold up as well when you consider there are many identical models to yours' out there.

It has long been said that locks only keep an honest man honest, and I agree wholeheartedly with this. I would add that case-hardened steel padlocks also make dishonest men unsuccessful. Since bolt-cutters are a favorite tool of the burglar, this will disappoint them immensely. Remember that with locks, you get what you pay for, so don't look for a bargain or scrimp in this

category. Dead-bolt locks are the only way to go on all doors accessible from the outside, and render credit cards useless for anything besides going into debt.

If given the choice a burglar would rather force a window open than actually breaking the glass, since he doesn't want to draw attention to himself by creating any unneeded noise. Window latches can be opened with the proper tool, so add protection by using dowels or 1x2s laid horizontally in side-sliding types and vertically in those that raise and lower. Be certain they cannot be knocked out or dislodged by a deliberate jolt or vibration. Using silver duct tape to "anchor" them in place will prevent this from happening.

The type of fencing the average person can afford is most often chain-linked. While this may not prevent the intruder from coming and going, it will at least slow him down and may prevent him from removing heavier objects from your premises. The ultimate protective factor in fencing comes with the tall wrought-iron styles that have pointed ends at the top, but you'll pay for it, too.

A lot of light is better than a little, but some is most definitely better than none! A dark perimeter is a welcome sign to burglars. Change bulbs regularly to prevent them from burning out while you are away and depending on them most! If you cannot afford a lot of lights, at least use bulbs with higher wattage for those you do have... the brighter, the better. Direct your beams towards front and rear entrances, as well as along routes from perimeters to your home, if possible. Even if you replace bulbs of average wattage with brighter ones only while gone on vacation I would highly recommend it. Better safe than sorry.

**Live Deterrents** — Dogs are a good deterrent to burglars for two reasons: they pose a threat by being likely to alarm neighbors with their barking, and also by the possibility of attacking the intruder. Dobermans and German Shepherds are both good in this respect; these breeds are feared by the majority of persons. Of course any breed that will bark when strangers come around is better than none at all, and a lot will do this much for you.

Dogs are not the only live deterrents, however. Whenever I had to park my van in a rough part of Portland, Oregon, I always took along my Doberman and cougar and never worried

# Burglar-Proofing Your Home

about locking the doors! I certainly don't advocate getting such an exotic animal for the purpose of an effective deterrent; in my case I happened to be breeding cougars at the time and it was therefore that one of them served a dual purpose. You can well imagine the comments made by the general public as to not wanting to come around your house after dark! If you have children, small ones in particular, the most important consideration must be the animal's temperament. There are a lot of exotic animals you simply cannot have around children as well as a few breeds of dogs. For legal reasons you must post a sign on your home, gate, or fence that warns others to beware of whatever it is you have. Of course this will also serve as a deterrent in itself at the same time.

Any hinges or hasps exposed outside your dwelling should be installed so as to prevent access to the screws or bolt heads by anyone with a screwdriver or wrench. Don't forget that primary objective: you want to make it extremely difficult if not impossible for an intruder to be successful.

Hiding your smaller concealable items such as money or jewelry is recommended as well, though my best advice to you here is to be creative without forgetting where you hide them! For those heirlooms and most valuable small items, I would urge you to consider a safety deposit box in your local bank. The average size will only cost \$20 to \$30 a year.

A safe is of course another good place to store your valuables, coming in a variety of sizes, quality, and prices. Some models are free standing while others are designed to be concealed in a floor or wall. The smaller and more economical ones are designed for items such as money, jewelry, and important documents. In addition to protecting these items from theft, a good safe will protect its contents from fire as well. Most safes today are fire proof. Gun safes, while a bit more spendy (\$300 to \$1,500) are another good investment, especially if you have any quantity of firearms. A burglar will have a good measure of difficulty in trying to make off with 500- to 1,000-pound steel box.

Neighborhood Watch programs are only as good as the participants; I can say that no plainer. I have seen some



Multi-directional lighting works well and can be mounted on the sides of structures or in trees.

work well while having witnessed others that were nothing more than a big joke. If you can organize a group of neighbors who are sincerely concerned about the safety and well-being of everyone's property, possessions, and families instead of just another excuse to get together with someone and drink beer, this can be a very effective measure for those involved. A tactful spokesperson/organizer is essential to such an operation. If you get too many macho-types fighting for the top dog's chair, don't waste your time. You either have the right chemistry and concentrated concern in your neighborhood or you don't. If those exist who are too ignorant to stick with accomplishing the primary objective, just forget it. You'd be much better off in such a situation to gracefully bow out and concentrate on fortifying your own interests.

Alarms vary in style and range in cost from \$25 to \$2,500. One of the current styles of measured quality is calculated in cost at \$50 per window or door. They are designed to 1) scare off the would-be intruder once he has set it off, 2) notify nearby neighbors that a break-in has just been attempted or initiated, and 3) alert alarm companies and/or law enforcement agencies of the same.

The most primitive models can be installed by anyone and simply emit a sound when activated. These are used in doorways and windows and are set off when solid contact against a trigger device is interrupted or when a pin is pulled free by a moving object (again, usually a door or window).

The more advanced systems, both of the audible and silent varieties, detect sound or motion within a specific confined area or activate when an invis-

ible infrared beam from point A to B is broken. While the audible ones tend to scare the burglar away (and may or may not send a signal to an appropriate responder), the silent alarm's usefulness is based entirely on an effective and timely response to apprehend the intruder in the home before he can escape with your belongings. Remember that the louder the noise (on audible systems), the better it will serve you as a deterrent. Even if the alarm wakes up half your neighborhood, you've simply alerted that many more people and most likely saved your valuables from being carted away.

I have seen several homes bedecked with security bars on every window and some that also had them covering the doors and entire porch area. There are two negative aspects to security bars, the first being that it gives the dwelling the appearance of a jail or prison which may create a somewhat depressing atmosphere. One individual I spoke with told me he finally had to remove the bars from his home, claiming that for him he felt "they induced paranoia." The second and certainly the most important reason is why they have been tagged with the name "suicide bars." On many more than one occasion they have created a death trap to the occupants when a fire broke out within. There are many documented cases of such instances.

If you feel you must install them on your home, be sure to use the type that can be released from inside, with hinges on the outside. And don't cover all the openings in your home, as there may not be enough time to release them in an emergency. The best strategy for placement is to use them on the back-side of your home, or in darkened areas of the structure. If your home is situated on a street, a burglar striking at night would prefer to enter your home from a side where he cannot be seen and then exit from the same place. If they can't gain access from the rear they may not want to risk being seen around the front. Protect those areas most vulnerable to attack.

For those of you with any amount of acreage, such as a ranch or large estate, illuminating or audible perimeter alarms can be very effective. Both varieties are triggered when a wire is tripped by the intruder enroute

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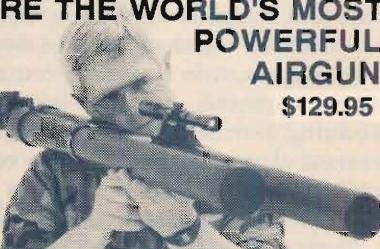
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# Burglar-Proofing Your Home

(Continued from page 76)

to your home, hence the term "trip flare" for the illuminating variety. With this type, or course, someone has to be around to see it, as it will do nothing more than light up the immediate area for only 10 to 20 seconds. The audible variety emits a loud whistle for the same length of time. I have utilized both types on a few contracts when working exec security for specific clients and can recall two cases where they paid for themselves. They are relatively inexpensive, ranging from \$6 to \$30 each. They will serve as a good deterrent and immediately establish the location of the intrusion.

For those who can afford such an investment, closed-circuit cameras and monitors will also help in detecting intruders within a specific area, provided that you have someone watching the monitors! Advanced technology has now created a perimeter alarm system that shows you exactly how many "targets" or "un-friendlies" have gained access within a perimeter, similar to looking at a radar screen. Each intruder shows up as a dot on the monitor. I have no detailed information on this system but reliable sources of mine have seen it in operation.

**Firearms** — Firearms obviously only serve their purpose in protecting the home if you or another member of your family are there to use them when a break-in is initiated. I'm going to back-track a moment and discuss preparedness, since purchasing one and having it "ready" is not enough! You, your spouse, or children (if old enough) should be familiar with a number of aspects relating to firearms. The first and foremost is SAFETY! Treat each and every firearm as if it were loaded and never point it at someone unless you intend to shoot them. You should also be aware of techniques such as breath control, trigger squeeze, and positioning. Becoming familiar with the specific firearms at your disposal is also very important, as a person tends to be apprehensive with anything unfamiliar or foreign to them. If and when an intruder enters your home and confronts you, it is the split second of hesitation that can cost you your life. The NRA frequently offers shooting courses for beginners, inclusive of special courses for minors and women. These courses offer a great deal of

knowledge and hands-on experience for a modest fee. I highly recommend them.

Handguns are the easiest to handle and maneuver in close quarters such as a bedroom or hallway. They are also the most difficult for an intruder to physically take away from you. As far as specific calibers are concerned, I recommend a smaller one for women, such as .32, .38, or 9mm. For the man of the house I recommend 9mm, .357, .45, or .44 Magnum. For stopping or knock-down action use hollow points; they'll give you the best results. 12-gauge shotguns are also a good home-defense firearm. Use 00 buckshot or slugs with them for the desired effect of your efforts! Regardless of which firearm(s) you select, it is your greatest responsibility to keep them out of your children's reach while still accessible to you or your spouse. Don't be too hasty in deciding on a safe place, either. Give this a lot of serious thought in order to prevent accidents.

For those who feel the need and can afford it, the executive security specialist is something to seriously consider not only for the protection of your home, ranch, or estate while you are away, but for the protection of you and your family while there as well. The best of these do not wear any conventional type of uniform and cannot be found through a typical security business. The vast majority prefer to live somewhere on your property so as to provide a permanent means of protection. Many have families of their own, and the most desirable contract is one where the specialist's family resides with him on the location.

The going rate for a good man who knows his business will usually range from \$1,800 to \$3,000 a month. Look for their services in papers or periodicals under "Situations Wanted," ask for references immediately, and do not hesitate to contact all of them immediately to get an accurate picture of what the person is all about. If you are satisfied with what you hear or receive in the way of written return reference forms (from former clients of the person) then contact them for an interview or arrange a meeting and proceed with any and all negotiations and other details at that time.

Uniformed security or police units will periodically patrol your residence or neighborhood, the latter at no ex-

pense to you beyond taxes you are forced to pay regardless of whether you request this extra service or not. It might be a good idea to consult your neighbors about each family contributing a small amount each month to hire a uniformed security patrol to come through your area on a frequent basis. Those that are any good will stagger their time of arrival to prevent a routine that could ultimately work to a burglar's advantage.

People frequently make their first mistake when moving into a new home or apartment; they make no effort to move their valuables in a discreet manner! When you move into a new neighborhood, it is quite natural for your neighbors to be inquisitive. Some, however, are downright nosy and make it their business to know who has what. You don't need this.

Move what valuables you can in boxes that don't announce their contents. Move other things during hours of darkness or from the back or your vehicle directly into the garage. To announce what you own is to invite a loss, so exercise discretion!

We can only expect tougher and more ruthless times in an era where words and terms like "plea bargaining," "probation," "reduced sentence for good behavior" and "prison overcrowding" are being used, heard, and read more frequently with each passing day. Living in the 1980s and 1990s is a survival game in every sense of the word, and your primary objective is to continue functioning without the loss of any critical pieces. The criminal is also playing a game but with completely different rules, if any. He is not wanting access to your home for a cup of coffee! His purpose is to take what belongs to you and yours; to injure, maim, or kill someone while doing it is often a part of his contingency. You own him nothing more than a quick trip to the next world. If you are not prepared to accept that and act accordingly, he would gladly send you or one of your family members in his place! Don't ever think otherwise.

Having seen firsthand what has caused or prevented crimes in and around the domestic residence, I know only too well that the elements and measures I have detailed here will prevent you from becoming another victim or statistic in the real world. ●

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